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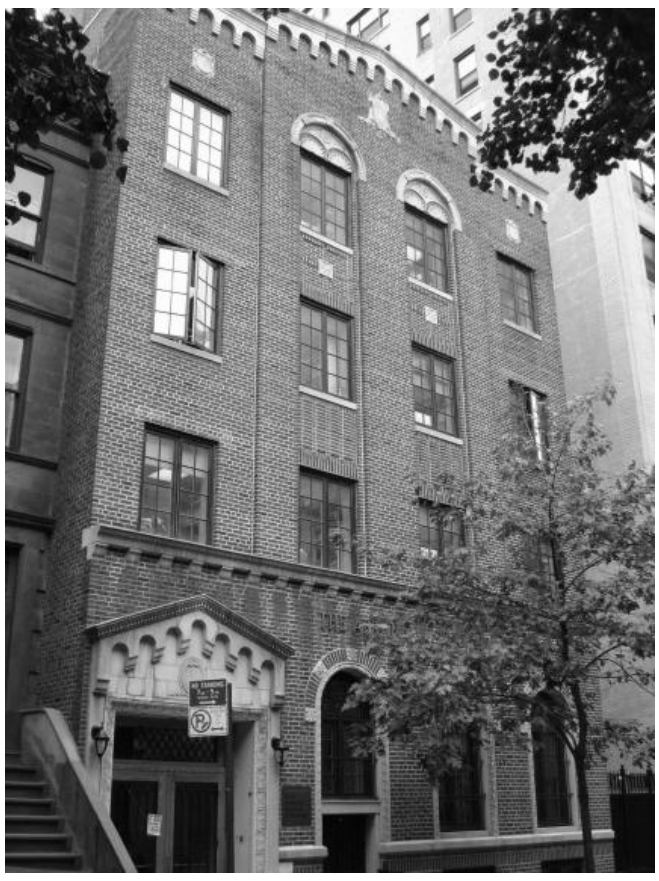
SULLIVANIANS, OR THE FOURTH WALL CULT



One of the Sullivan Institute's buildings in NYC. Thanks, http://www.thesociallifeofartisticproperty.com.

Today I'm going to write about the experiences of Dr. Amy B. Siskind inside the NYC-based Sullivanian cult, as she relates them in the current edition of the *International Cultic Studies Journal Vol 5, 2014*.

I'm writing about the Sullivanians, or "Fourth Wall" cult, because this group has an 'elite' pedigree, as far as American power-circles go, and because the cult's history sheds light on the origins of the CIA's 'mind control' MK ULTRA program.

Siskind was a child when her mother entered the Sullivanians, right on the heels of divorcing Siskind's father. (You may be interested in reading about second-generation cult members.) In Siskind's words, this is what the now-disbanded Sullivanians were all about:

> *Pearce and Newton [founders of the Sullivanian cult] believed that the nuclear family was the cornerstone of an unhealthy and selfish society. Specifically, they viewed the relationship of mothers to their children as the cause of almost all psychopathology, and also as the basis of all individual limitations…*
>
> *Therefore, in order to enable children to become healthy adults, Pearce and Newton deemed it necessary to make radical changes in the structure of the family and in child-rearing practices. The Sullivan Institute/Fourth Wall therapeutic community was an outgrowth of this ideology. In the formative years of the community (1957 to 1970), the leadership undertook the creation of "hitherto unconceived social forms"2 by advising patients to formally break off contact with their families of origin, by advising childless patients not to have children, and by requiring members who were already parents either to send their children to boarding schools or hire full-time caregivers and housekeepers.*
>
> *2 Pearce and Newton,* Conditions of Human Growth*, 1963 (Citadel Press), p. 7*

Siskind reflects on the negative influences from her involvement with the Sullivanians:

> *The developement of my sexuality and my sense of myself as a sexual being was deeply affected by my experiences with Ralph Klein [a Sullivanian leader]. His voyeuristic comments and attitude impacted me in the sense that I believe I acted in ways that I wouldn't have otherwise. My*

early experimentation with sexual activity may or may not have taken place without his input, but I don't think that my objectification of myself would have been the same. I was taught to distance my sexual feelings from my other emotions. Thankfully, I wasn't always able to achieve this separation; but at certain points in my life I did have sexual encounters that were fairly impersonal. In the Sullivan Institute community, for anyone to become deeply emotionally involved with one person was considered dangerous.

My sense of myself as a competent, intelligent person was both enhanced and assaulted at various points by my [cult-appointed] therapists and by the leadership of the community. I was supported in my academic aspirations, but at a certain point the demands of the group made it impossible for me to achieve my goals. Additionally, one of the most basic things about my sense of self-worth as a woman– my ability to raise a child– was questioned.

Simply having a great many social experiences in the context of the community helped my shyness and social anxiety. However, the deeper issues of my difficulties with friendship and committment were never addressed. While I was a member of the group, I was able to develop close relationships with women and a few men. I don't remember being helped to deepen these relationships.

Because my relationships with my father and mother were stopped during the period I was in the group, I didn't have the opportunity to develop adult relationships with them. I didn't learn that I could separate from them, hold different opinions from them, and still love them… I reconnected with my father several months after I left the community, just before my brother died violently in Israel in what was called suicide.

What I'd like readers to take home is how the cult *attacked Siskind's family relationships*, particularly the bond between Siskind and her mother, and between Siskind and the children she wished for (Siskind and her husband adopted a baby in later life, after leaving the cult). By attacking the family relationship, the Sullivanians were able to *isolate* Siskind from meaningful, non-cult influences.

What happened to Siskind struck me because of the new way I learned to understand 'family' while I lived in various developing countries. Anglo-American expectations of 'family' are different from those in most other parts of the world.

In most of the world two or three generations live together under one roof and, in turn, this multi-generational household is part of a tight-knit community of people with similar backgrounds. In these communities 'like marries like' and the 'in-group' help each other first.

On the other hand, for people of European descent in the Anglo-American world, 'family' tends to mean children and their immediate parents, with grandparents on either side living separately– often too far away to play much of a role in family life. Westerners are discouraged by the State, their church and Academia from distinguishing between 'self' and 'other' when practising altruism.

This Western difference has huge implications; implications which I might not be aware of if I hadn't lived overseas. The most important of these is that Westerners have a smaller family network to draw on for protection or support. In order to get to Amy Siskind, all the Sullivanians had to do was convince her mother. Might the outcome have been different if, say, Amy's grandparents were allowed/expected to have as much say about Siskind's welfare as her mother?

Cults are not the only danger to vulnerable people. The extended family is important for resisting malignant social influences or government predation, too: consider the Uighur community in China. Uighurs, a Muslim minority, work together to protect themselves from persecution, real and imagined. (The flip side of this is that they often use the same networks for organized crime.) My point is that in most of the world extended family networks protect the individual from rapacious government officials– *family provides protection from broken governments.* The Western way of raising children makes us particularly vulnerable to government pressure.

Siskind's abuse at the hands of the Sullivanians is terrifying, especially considering that she was just a child when the brain-washing started. But what if the isolating policies of the Sullivanians were not just a sad aberration, but an outgrowth of the interests and policies of a well-connected group of people with pull in Washington D.C.?

In this post, I argue that is the case: the Sullivanians' ideas represented a perversion of popular elitist thinking, *but not a very large perversion*. I'll do this by giving a brief history of the ideas and people who inspired the Sullivanians and their connections to Washington D.C. and the 'intelligence community'. I'll then offer one anecdote and a few suggestions as to how this cabal's ideas are being implemented by the Federal government *right now*. My premise is that strong family bonds are essential to individual freedom; attacks on family bonds isolate the individual and a are part of effective mind-control strategies.

Effective mind-control strategies all use some element of isolation to keep their victims under thumb, this is true whether the manipulator is an exploitative institution, a religious cult, the 'intelligence community' or a narcissistic spouse. The power of isolation as a control tool has been known for a long time and breaking the target from family who are unsympathetic to the cult is a 'must' for cult-leaders. Here's a quote from Shelly Rosen's paper titled *Cults: A Natural Disaster– Looking at Cult Involvement Through a Trauma Lens*, which appeared in the *International Cultic Studies Journal vol. 5, 2014:*

The primacy of the two-parent, nuclear family is a recent development in human history and is in fact not the only

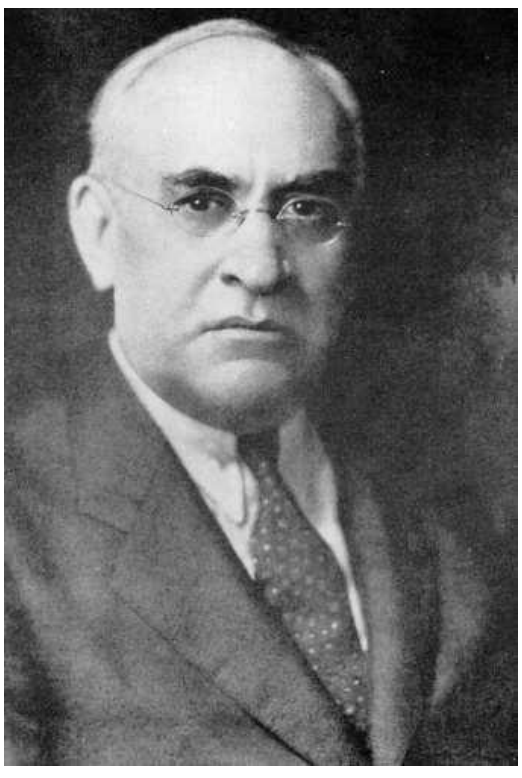
> *paradigm for clan living in the modern world. The problem with one's being born and raised in a cult is not that the members are not raised in nuclear families; one could argue that living with many people who support the parent-child bond is a better way to ensure secure attachment (Perry, 2009). Rather, the problem is that the leader and the group process perpetrate boundary violations on the group's members; often separate spouses from each other, and parents from their children; and isolate their members from the greater world (Lalich & Tobias, 2006). This environment creates abandonment fear and stunts the process of sharing one's particular proclivities with a variety of others, both of which greatly hinder development. A nuclear family with a narcissistic, isolating parent can be as problematic as a nonkin group with a narcissistic leader. The narcissism and the resulting lack of support, as well as the isolation from the greater human world, create the problem.*

So how was isolation, as a manipulative tactic, reinvented in 1950s New York City?

Site of the Sullivanian's propaganda organ, the 'Fourth Wall Repertory Theater', on 79 East 4th Street in NYC. Thanks, http://www.thesociallifeofartisticproperty.com

The Sullivanians were founded by Saul Newton (born Saul Cohen) and his wife Jane Pearce. The couple met while working at the William Alanson White Institute, an organization which promotes psychoanalysis and the legacy of Sigmund Freud. The couple were also devotees of Harry Stack Sullivan, a founder of the William Alanson White Institute along with Erich Fromm, a one-time associate of the CIA-assisted Frankfurt School intellectuals.

After Harry Stack Sullivan died, Newton and Pearce left the William Alanson White Institute to found their cult, which was formally known as The Sullivan Institute therapeutic community. Newton ruled the community as a dictator, fathering ten children by different women and exploiting vulnerable people like Amy Siskind. How much of an aberration were Newton's ideas from those of William Alanson White and his protegé Harry Stack Sullivan? Supporters of White and Sullivan say that Newton's cult was completely out of step with these luminaries' ideas, but I'm not so sure.



William Alanson White, courtesy of http://mikemcclaughry.wordpress.com

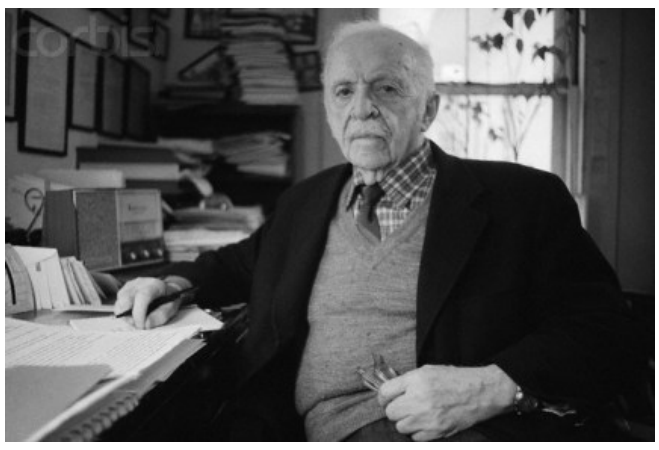
William Alanson White was a New York City surgeon who had two passions: the potential of Sigmund Freud's work in psychoanalysis and the potential of Boris Sidis' work in hypnosis, mental illness and suggestibility. White promoted Freud's ideas in the American medical community; he worked personally with Sidis while living in New York at the turn of the twentieth century. (Sidis did his work on hypnosis after Harvard, while he worked as an associate at the Pathological Institute of the New York State Hospitals.)

Beginning in the 1890s, New York and Boston were good places to

study 'mind-control'. At Harvard University, William James worked alongside Sidis to explore 'exceptional mental states' and 'suggestibility'– how to control people through suggestion.

In New York, men like Sigmund Freud's nephew Edward Bernays were developing strategies to manipulate public opinion and control democracies from "behind the scenes".

Bernays was a propagandist for the Woodrow Wilson administration, which came into power because Teddy Roosevelt, the 'bull moose', decided to run as a third presidential candidate in 1912. Readers will remember that after WWI, Teddy worked with Leonid Andreyev's translator ~~and murderer~~ Herman Bernstein to blame the war on the Kaiser while Wilson built his brave new world at Versailles.



Sigmund Freud's nephew and advertizing guru Edward Bernays.

During the first few decades of the twentieth century elitist East Coast circles were quite open about their desire to 'take control' of the American Experiment (look at the books they published!); their openness about their political aims was something that didn't really change until the lead-in to WWII, which is why CIA counterintelligence head James Jesus Angleton focused on pre-war intelligence during his investigations into Soviet spy networks.

My point is that the seven MK ULTRA subprojects which investigated hypnosis would have started by looking at what Boris Sidis and his friends had done; Sidis was the most widely known and best connected researcher into hypnosis. If the destroyed MK ULTRA documents concerned the same topics Philip Zimbardo wrote about in *On Resisting Social Influence*, then White's, Sidis' and Bernays' students/colleagues would have been highly desirable partners for the CIA.

Was William Alanson White the type of character who would lend his knowledge to a cause like Bernays' democracy-manipulation, or to a project like MK ULTRA if he'd lived long enough? Here's a quote from his autobiography about how he first won public prominence in NYC:

> *This element of publicity has been a rather interesting one in my career. The incident above cited [White's appointment to a NY State medical committee] was not by any means the first experience I had of this sort. I got an unusual amount of attention from the press during my career as an ambulance surgeon. I figured in a number of rather dramatic incidents which made good copy, and I always got along very well with the fourth estate.*

What type of a surgeon panders to the press with gory tales of their unfortunate patients? Not an ethical one.

Newspaper articles which appealed to base interests also appealed to Theodore Roosevelt, and White soon got Teddy's patronage. White was given a position in Washington D.C. at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, a notorious asylum which after WWII would hold at least one political prisoner. White would also become president of the American Psychological Association (like Philip Zimbardo), an association which has had unsavory relations with the CIA since 1953 at least. White was an expert manipulator of federal funding and appropriations bodies; he left a well-endowed legacy to his protegés like Harry Stack Sullivan.

Harry Stack Sullivan spent his life as a Washington D.C. psychiatrist and political operator. Sullivan was a homosexual and worked hard to promote acceptance of homosexuals in the US military. As we know, the LGBT community currently plays a disproportionate role in the armed forces.

But there's more to Sullivan than his work for the large LGBT community in Washington D.C.

Harry Stack Sullivan, thanks theglaringfacts.com

Sullivan studied with Freud and took Freud's theories further with 'interpersonal psychoanalysis', which involves analyzing people by looking at how they interact with others, particularly with their 'significant other', in hopes of providing insight into mental disorders.

It may interest regular readers to know that Heinz Kohut, the preeminent narcissism researcher whose work is referenced by the US military to explain the prevalence of narcissism in their ranks, has this to say about Narcissism and interpersonal relationships:

> *Patients with NPD [Narcissistic Personality Disorder] may have a history of many failed relationships secondary to disappointment that the relationship is not giving them the longed-for childhood gratification and their missing self object needs.7*
>
> *7. Muslin MD, Hyman L. Heinz Kohut: Beyond the pleasure principle: Contributions to psychoanalysis. In: Reppen J, editor. Beyond Freud: A Study of Modern Psychoanalytic Theorists. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc; 1985. pp. 203–29.*

Another way of interpreting what Kohut says is that people who suffer from narcissism tend to isolate themselves, or at least, are unlikely to form deep, lasting relationships with other people. Narcissism is a barrier to forming healthy families.

A little speculation on destroyed MK ULTRA research: It's conceivable that a manipulator who is interested in exploiting a condition like narcissism could use Sullivan's case histories for identifying patterns of behavior which may signify **reliable** 'recruitment' targets, for example, a person with a string of brief, failed marriages. After all, people with "NPD" don't have it stamped on their forehead.

Much like Freud, Sullivan's work had political implications. Sullivan declared that society was to blame for some mental illnesses; that social prejudices were at the heart of some individuals' maladjustments– he wrote a paper on this titled *The Illusion of Personal Individuality*. (See p. 56 of *Harry Stack Sullivan: Interpersonal Theory and Psychotherapy*, by F. Barton Evans III.) The logical conclusion from Sullivan's assertions is that society needs to change in order to 'promote mental health'.

Before I move from Sullivan to Saul Newton, I'd like to make one last observation on Sigmund Freud. Much of Freud's work has now been discredited, he was a coke-fiend who 'theorized' by imagining his motivations were the same as his clients. (If you're interested, read *The Decline and Fall of the Freudian Empire*, by Hans Eysenck.) However, while some of his ideas have dubious medical merit, I suggest that they are politically powerful and that's why they haven't been forgotten.

Consider, for instance, the 'Oedipus Complex'. This is Encyclopedia Britannica's definition of Freud's term:

> *Oedipus complex, in psychoanalytic theory, a desire for sexual involvement with the parent of the opposite sex and a concomitant sense of rivalry with the parent of the same sex; a crucial stage in the normal developmental process. Sigmund Freud introduced the concept in his Interpretation of Dreams (1899).*

Freud suggests that somewhere at the heart of every child's relationship to their parent is a desire for incest. Freud's highly controversial theory attacks the family bond by suggesting that deep down a child's relation with their parent is an abusive sexual relationship, a relationship that inspires disgust. Since Freud had no scientific basis for this ugly assertion– he made up the Oedipal Complex based on a misreading of Sophocles' play *Oedipus Rex*— one has to wonder what, exactly, was Freud's motivation? *Has there ever been a more fundamental attack on the family?*

Sigmund Freud, great showman but not-so-careful reader?

I encourage readers to review Siskind's description of what the Sullivanians were about, and ask themselves if Newton and Pearce's ideas *really were* so different from those of their idols White and Sullivan. **After all, Newton's community *was* free of the 'neurosis-enducing' nuclear family which passed on the arbitrary values of a 'neurosis-enducing' society…**

Finally, on to Saul Newton himself.

Saul Newton was a Canadian who came into his own through Chicago's revolutionary, communist circles. From Chicago, Newton joined the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, an American volunteer organization which fought with the Communists during the Spanish Civil War. (KGB/OSS agent Ernest Hemingway is famous for singing their praises.) The Abraham Lincoln Brigade was exceptionally well-connected amongst what would become the core of FDR's Office of Strategic Services, and this University of Pennsylvania author estimates "At least 60 percent were members of the Young Communist League or CP [Communist Party]."

Now playing in Ferguson, MO! *Thank you, horizontefbt.blogspot.com.*

In 1957, after Newton had finished shooting Spaniards alongside OSS'ers and Communists, he got a job with a Freud-centered think-tank, married Jane Pearce and started his cult.

What type of people did Newton target for mind-control? Well, the daughter of well-known author James Agee, Julia Agee, for one. James Agee worked with Whittaker Chambers at *TIME* magazine, Clare Boothe Luce's front for the CIA. In his biography, *Witness*, Chambers claims that he and James were the principal minds behind *TIME's* book review section, as well as a "special projects" section:

> *Presently, a new post was devised for me. It was called Special Projects. It was a new department of the magazine whose staff consisted of my friend, James Agee, and me. Its purpose was to provide* Time *chiefly with cover stories which, because of the special difficulties of subject matter or writing, other sections of* Time *were thought to be less well equipped to handle.*

Cough, cough, cough.

Readers will remember that Whittaker Chambers was a KGB agent who became an asset of J. Edgar Hoover and provided crucial testimony against other Soviet spies in the USA.

I don't have a full list of Sullivanian members, but Julia Agee's involvement alone suggests that Newton was targeting a population close to the 'intelligence community'. (Julia's father had committed suicide by the time of her involvement with the Sullivanians.)

What I hope I've shown is that the Sullivanians were a well-connected cult that inherited the ideas of well-connected Washington D.C. operators and targeted people who were within easy reach of the 'intelligence community'. Newton chose to implement his control strategy with tactics that mirrored the beliefs of his idols and targeted victims' relationship to their immediate parents, the strongest remaining family bond in the Western world.

But what about the rest of us, the people Quinn Norton characterizes as the "lesser people", who aren't part of the 'intelligence community'? Are we victims of the same family-bashing?

A few years ago when I worked at a NYC think-tank, I attended a talk in which the head of the Chicago School System told an audience of New York bankers that Chi-town's goal was to "take charge" of children as young as two years old, in order to prevent "bad influences" from parents, by which he meant 'parents passing on their values to their children'. Since then, 'early education' specialists in my own community have announced their intention to roll out similar programs for two year olds. Their goal is ever-earlier intervention in the parent child bond.

But you don't have to take my word for it, there are many examples of the US government taking over parental responsibilities. Consider Charlotte Iserbyt's description of how Washington-approved sex education was sold; or social services' ludicrously free hand in taking children from parents; or the state and federal governments' increasingly early intervention in the education and health of children. These programs take over parents' rights and responsibilities and put the State in charge instead– I've provided a few examples, but talk to anybody *honest* in education, social work or healthcare and you'll find many more.

My time living overseas has taught me to *suspect* attacks on the family from the State. I *suspect the motives* of Washington D.C.-cronies who want to insert themselves in between a kid and their folks, because if there's anything that the Sullivanians can teach the rest of us it's that a bureaucracy can't replace family and the results of trying to do so are devastating to kids– but very useful to exploitative organizations.

4 COMMENTS

SUMMER DAYS WITH COO

Summer Days with Coo movie poster.

It's been a long time since I've done a movie review, and since 'Black Friday' and other assorted consumer-fests are on the horizon, I'd like to draw readers' attention to another excellent Japanese movie, *Summer Days With Coo*.

This is the story of an orphaned water sprite, called a 'kappa', whose resilience in the face of suffering teaches a Japanese pre-teen about what it means to love and respect other people.

Traditional Japanese rendering of a 'kappa' water sprite.

If you're tired of vampy Disney princesses who whine about their personal responsibilities, then *Summer Days With Coo* will be very refreshing. The movie is free of obnoxious 'American values'; it's a sympathetic introduction to Japanese culture and mythology; and has great (original!) storytelling.

One of these costumes didn't have to be modified for the 'Adult' market. Try *Summer Days with Coo* instead of *Frozen* this year.

The downside to *Summer Days with Coo* is the price. The cheapest version available on Amazon is US$40.00; but if that's outside your budget, some kind person has put up a high-quality English-subtitled version on Youtube:

Having said that, this film is worth more than two copies of *'Frozen'* and I encourage people to support quality film-making. *Coo* was directed by Keiichi Hara, while Masao Kogure wrote the story.

Traditional European rendering of the Snow Queen by Edmund Dulac.

If you're interested in the good things I have to say about Studio Ghibli, another Japanese animation studio, check out my post here. *Summer Days With Coo* is not a Ghibli film, but a co-production between several companies. It's also not a film for under-5's, because there's some violence at the very beginning. If you've got very young children, I suggest *My Neighbour Totoro* instead of *'Frozen'*; for kids between 5-12 I suggest *Spirited Away* instead of *'Frozen',* if *Coo's* initial samurai violence is too much for you. (Disney 'presents' Ghibli films in the US, but Ghibli execs don't let Burbank destroy their films– good story there.)

The uplifiting news is that if you're willing to step away from the Disney monolith, there's a lot of good children's programing out there: ethical kids need ethical entertainment.

P.S. If you're interested in the history of Disney and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt administration's cooperation with the KGB, you'll enjoy Walt and El Grupo.

LEAVE A COMMENT

THE CULT OF INTELLIGENCE

While looking into Philip Zimbardo's writing for my previous post, I came across the latest edition of the *International Journal of Cultic Studies,* the "Traumatic Narcissism" issue. The point of the issue is to look at how narcissistic cult leaders control their followers, or as Zimbardo would put it, how the cult leaders establish "systems of control". Narcissism comes into play because, whatever the group's stated intention, their only goal is self-aggrandizement of the leader(s).

I have never worked for any intelligence agency, but I was struck by how similar ex-cult-members' stories of abuse paralleled stories I'd heard from the handful of people I've known who grew up and worked in the 'intelligence community'. One writer in particular, Daniel Shaw, wrote a very thoughtful account of his decade in Siddha Yoga, the *Eat, Pray, Love* guru's cult, titled *The Relational System of the Traumatizing Narcissist*.

Shaw writes about the cult for an audience of psychoanalysts and that irony is not lost on him. Shaw tells how one inlaw responded to his decision to become a psychoanalyst in his early forties: "Great! You've left one cult, and now you're joining another!"

I'm not going to speak to the psychoanalytic merits of the theories presented in this edition of the journal; it's the personal recollections of the authors that interest me most. Unlike some of the other contributors, Shaw doesn't paint cult followers as blameless "altruists" who are victimized by a manipulating narcissist. Shaw is brave enough to suggest that there's something narcissistic about cult followers too; his description of 'traditional' narcissistic behavior could just as easily apply to cult followers:

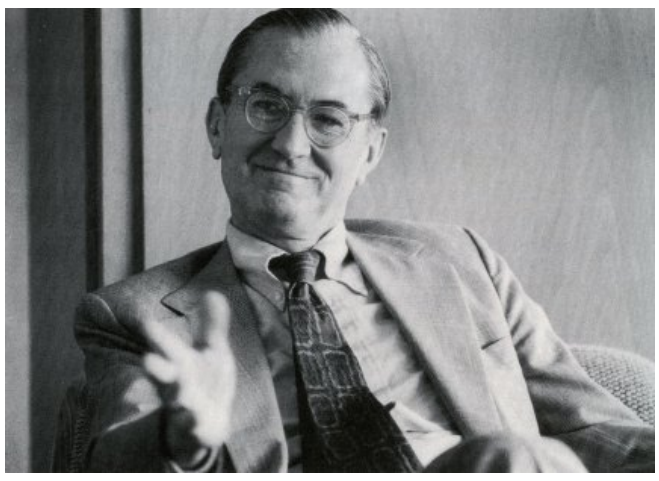
> *A thin-skinned, shame-prone, or deflated pathological narcissist… may mascochistically seek approval and recognition from idealized, grandiose others.*

Shaw's observation about why people *willingly choose* to join cults parallels my own belief about the usefulness of 'narcissism' to exploitative organizations.

Shaw's writing is courageous: it's hard to admit that one has been a fool, it's doubly hard to admit foolishness when something ugly about ones' self made that foolishness possible. What makes men like Shaw exceptional is that they **matured** enough to take a step back and realize their cult leader wasn't giving them anything of value in return for their devotion. That back-step is a difficult step to take, and anyone who pulls themselves out of a cult-like situation deserves respect, especially if that person had the misfortune to be born into the cult.

I can't broach the 'intelligence cult' topic without addressing John

Marks' and Victor Marchetti's book *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence*, which I believe they wrote with the blessing of CIA director William Colby. Colby praised Marks' and Marchetti's conclusions in his autobiography in 1978, in which Colby claimed that *the rest of the CIA*, but not himself, suffered from a cult-like culture.



"The challenging thing about being *very* important is that you're surrounded by lunatics."

Anyone who trusts Bill Colby does so at their own risk, *however*, the best propaganda contains an element of truth and I believe that the intelligence community *is* hobbled by its cult-like culture. Colby was part of this culture, he used it throughout his career and used it one last time to deflect criticism from himself in his autobiography.

You may be surprised by the nature of the anecdotes in this post. In a nutshell, leaders of the intelligence community do not respect the personal boundaries of 'intelligence community' members, much like cult leaders don't respect their followers' boundaries. Intelligence community members, like cult-followers, *dont' expect* to have any boundaries between themselves and their bosses. I'll remind readers of Quinn Norton's observations on the "IC" ("Intelligence Community", for those of us who don't belong to it):

> *The IC are some of the most surveilled humans in history. They know everything they do is gone over with a fine-toothed comb — by their peers, their bosses, their lawyers, other agencies, the president, and sometimes Congress. They live watched, and they don't complain about it.*

A person who has never lived in a cult environment may assume that Quinn Norton is talking about being 'micro-managed' at work, or 'hemmed in by a pile of paperwork'. **Not so.** The 'combing' is not *just* about work-related things: it's who you marry; how you spend your free time; what your political beliefs are. *Nothing about the "IC" professional is private.* ***Everything has to serve the master.*** This is how Shaw describes cult environments:

> *Followers in cults are traumatized in various ways by the different kinds of abuses they are exposed to as they accept the leader's control over them; these abuses typically include intimidation,* ***belittling and humiliation****, and, more concretely,* ***severe overwork*** *and deprivation of sleep and proper nutrition. The follower's rewards, which are recognition from the leader and the ensuing prestige the followers gain within their group, are bestowed and rescinded at the leader's whim, keeping the follower in a state of instability and* ***fear about displeasing the leader and thereby losing status and favor****.*

Bearing what Shaw says in mind, here is the first of my anecdotes: An agent wanted to marry someone who was a clear security risk. Quite sanely, "IC" leaders said "no". Also sanely, the agent said "I'm going to marry this person." The sanity ends here, because instead of asking the agent to drop their badge by the front door, the "IC" tried to *shame them into changing their mind* about the marriage by demoting the agent to a low-prestige clerical job, which the agent carried out dutifully. After several months, the "IC" suddenly changed its mind, let the agent marry the security risk and gave the agent back a 'worthy' job. (I don't know if it was the same job.)

Several things could have happened here, the "IC" may have eventually decided that they could use this marriage to spread disinformation– I just don't know. However, the "IC's" actions tell us that the most important thing to them was ensuring that the agent was still **reliable**: the "IC" decided that they could roll the dice with a security risk as long as the agent proved their continued **reliability** through a shaming exercise. My understanding is that these shaming exercises are not uncommon and are used to 'correct' undesirable political opinions too.

Imagine how distressing a demotion like the one I just described would be to someone with narcissistic tendencies! (Narcissism is unusually prevalent in the military community, and therefore is likely prevalent amongst spooks as well.) Never the less, the agent jumped through every hoop, no matter how arbitrary, and probably did so with full knowledge that the marriage was allowed so that it could be *used*.

The weirdness doesn't end there– Shaw makes the following observation about cults and their intolerance of independent thinking:

> *The more successful and powerful a particular cult becomes, the greater the risk of public exposure, and therefore, the more urgent and hysterical the culture becomes. The leadership of the group becomes more shameless and without boundaries, demanding more and more time, money, and energy of the followers; defining enemies of the group to eventually include anyone not in the group; and becoming increasingly punitive of deviance within the ranks.*

Quinn Norton gives us an example of the "IC's" *sweeping* definition of their 'enemies':

> *The question is who gets to be part of the "we" that are being kept allegedly safe by all this exploiting and listening and decrypting and profiling.When they [the 'intelligence community'] attacked Natanz with Stuxnet and left all the other nuclear facilities vulnerable, we were quietly put on notice that the "we" in question began and ended with the IC itself. That's the greatest danger.*
>
> *When the IC or the DOD or the Executive branch are the only true Americans, and the rest of us are subordinate Americans, or worse the non-people that aren't associated with America, then we can only become lesser people as time goes on.*

In that same vein, here's my second anecdote and again it's about "IC" powers interfering in members' marriage choices: A few decades ago, two well-connected young people wanted to get married. They both had family in the higher echelons of the intel business; had shown great promise in their respective fields; and were set to enjoy a lifetime of being 'plugged-into' the intel sphere. However, both of them– independently– had shown a tendency to be critical of "IC" policies on ethical grounds. They were *made aware* that their marriage would be frowned upon by the "IC" because partnering up could aggravate their **unreliable** tendencies– no security risks, mind you, just "deviance" in their thinking. Result? The couple is still happily married, but ostracized from the intelligence community, the community they grew up in. A loss for the USA– *and* for the "IC".

I've been highlighting the word 'reliability' here because reliability is *the indispensable characteristic* that the 'intelligence community' looks for in recruits. It's not the same as loyalty: only a healthy, mature person can give loyalty. Reliability is about putting the wishes of the cult leader above all else, regardless of anything else. As Daniel Shaw describes:

> *The follower's deficiencies are grouped under the umbrella of "the ego," or a similar idea using different words, which is regarded as a harmful appendage or blockage of the true self, and which must therefore be purified by the leader for the follower to reach her potential. Purification in the case of cults typically means being subjected to various forms of sadistic belittling and humiliation, including, in some cases, beatings. Purity may also be judged by one's willingness to give over most of any money one might have, or willingness to be subjected to sexual abuse, or both. Leaders do not have to be grateful for anything they are given or for anything they take from followers– **when taking, they are understood to actually be giving.***

It's an honor to serve in Her Majesty's Secret Service.

Here I'd like to remind readers what Peter Wright, a second-generation lifetime spook, said about his employer's one-way demands: "MI5 expects its officers to remain loyal unto the grave, without necessarily offering loyalty in return."

I'll also point out that you don't have to read many books on espionage before you're fed up with glowing war-stories about women and men who used themselves, or their fortunes, in pursuit of 'state secrets'. *If you're willing to drop your pants for Allen Dulles' goals, then you're truly 'chosen'!*

One of the more interesting parts of this IJCS issue is the exploration of what type of person typically joins a cult. Both cults and the intelligence community like to recruit people who won't recognize or object to abuse because 1) they are too young to know themselves or their own interests or 2) they were born into a cult-like environment. College students are the perfect target for type 1) recruiting, according to Shaw:

> *For years, cults have recruited on college campuses, because this is where they can find intelligent recruits who are likely to be struggling with identity issues, with idealism, with social adjustments– and with separation issues, and all the complicated fears and rebellions that are part of growing up.*

College campuses are/were a favorite recruiting ground for US, Russian and British intel operations; I suspect all spook outfits sometimes recruit this way. College students are notoriously malleable and have little life experience, so they make the perfect target for indoctrination.

A lot of people go to college, but not all of them wind up in a cult or at the CIA. What about type 2) recruiting, going after people who were raised in cultish environments? To help explain type 2) recruiting, I offer a quote from another IJCS contributor, Shelly Rosen: (Her paper is titled *Cults: A Natural Disaster– Looking at Cult Involvement Through a Trauma Lens*)

> *For second-generation cult members (those born and raised in cultic groups), this dynamic is magnified. They have been raised in an encompassing community whose culture is defined by the needs and abusive practices of the leader during times of critical social and emotional development for*

> *them. In addition, their own parents will likely transmit some of the traumatizing and immobilizing aspects of the group in their own efforts to be good soldiers.*

Here's a summary of some of the characteristics Rosen identifies with people who are drawn to cults:

– They come from an "Idealistic" community; one that appeals to people with a predisposition to "religiosity".

– They come from an environment that fosters anxiety about competition; is isolating; that discourages individuals from recognizing manipulation.

I wish that Rosen would elaborate on what she means by "religiosity", because it has struck me how many prominent intelligence people have come from Mormon, Jewish and Catholic communities, all of which have stronger in-group identification than your typical WASP congregation.

My final anecdote is about an "IC" subordinate (who came from one of those three backgrounds) and their boss: One day this subordinate startled their boss by asking for sex. Why? The subordinate's job required them to be absent from other people and the subordinate had been this way for so long that they were desperate for any type of companionship. The request was a cry for help. The boss behaved ethically in as far as they didn't take advantage of the subordinate. However, when the boss related this story to me, they were somewhat bemused by my pity for the subordinate: "What? They're okay."

I don't believe the boss was trying to be callous or cruel: **they simply did not recognize that this type of emotional pain was a problem.** The boss was second-generation intel, they'd grown up in the spook milieu: good spooks "soldier" on, regardless of the situations that they're put in. **Nothing is too much to ask from an agent.** In their own way, that boss was as ignorant *and vulnerable* as Shelly Rosen's ex-cult client who reached 18 years old without knowing which state she was living in.

I put it to the intelligence community that burning out your staff like this is a problem, as it is in any other industry, because the strain will eventually affect employees' judgement and make them less effective. If what the intelligence community does *really is* of exceptional importance, then it's not only ethically unacceptable to abuse employees like this, but it's also a *real* danger to national security.

Acculturation issues are not the only issues that may make somebody an appealing recruitment target. Both Shaw and Rosen observe that traumatic events during adolescence, like the death of a parent, may have an emotionally stunting effect which may lead the child to crave authority figures and security. British agent Aleister Crowley's life fits this pattern perfectly; I *suspect* that his cult experiment in Sicily—which provided inspiration for the 1960s cultural revolution in the USA—had research goals similar to those of the CIA with their MK ULTRA program.

Why does any of this matter? It matters because, if I'm correct, then the general public is faced with a two *serious problems*:

1) We cannot expect the "IC" to maintain ethics which the population at large can live with.

2) We cannot expect the "IC" to police itself.

Cults don't self-regulate, they spin off into delerium as their leaders get drunk on their own power. I recognize that intelligence work often involves ethically 'grey' activity, but in order to keep things 'grey', there needs to be *real* debate inside the "IC" about what intel programs are appropriate, otherwise "IC" activity will spin out of control into the ethically 'black' region, as evidenced by programs like PRISM.

Cults don't police themselves. Their members believe that they're the good guys and the rest of us (at best!) *need guidance*. This arrogance is typical of the intelligence community, who are often complacent about their intellectual superiority and ability to weigh 'pros' and 'cons'. In the 1970s, we had a half-*ssed attempt at self-policing with the FISA court, which unsurprisingly turned out to be a sad joke. (Frankly, I'm not sure that this court was meant to be anything other than a fig-leaf.)

If I am right, and the "IC" is a cult, then the only option left for US citizens is to push for the IC's dissolution. Take away the money.

Cults can't function at the high level which a democracy needs intelligence outfits to function on. Cults are a corrosive type of institutional culture that won't change with new management. Intel pros who were molded in the cult environment need to be removed from positions of influence. The culture has to be erased.

The USA made it through the first 160 years of its existence without organizations like the CIA or NSA; we were actually quite popular before these institutions came into being after WWII. We got what intel we needed from our military and diplomatic organs; we didn't need to profile our own citizens or map voting trends in friendly nations. An "IC-free" world is possible, and if we as a nation want any quality of life in the future, we need to work toward that possibility. Otherwise, it won't be long before, like the Chinese Communists, we're swatting swallows and knocking the heads off Buddhas.

Next week… was MK ULTRA a one-off, or the culmination of decades of pre-WWII 'mind control' research?

1 COMMENT

THE BANALITY OF MIND CONTROL

Philip Zimbardo, courtesy of his think tank HeroicImagination.org, which studies street gangs, amongst other things.

I've written about the MK ULTRA programs a lot recently; they're an easy subject to write about because they're so theatrical and unlikely. Magic mushrooms creating the perfect soldier? Psychokinesis undermining the Evil Empire? It all sounds made for Hollywood…

… which should be a red flag. We know that the MK ULTRA release in 1977 opened only a fraction of the program up to public scrutiny. John Marks (therefore, Bill Colby) says that Richard Helms destroyed a good deal of the MK ULTRA evidence around 1973. We don't really know much about what MK ULTRA, the 'mind control' program, was investigating. *We don't really know if the CIA found out anything useful or not.*

The showmanship surrounding the MK ULTRA project was designed to dazzle with ridiculous projects and then dissuade further investigation with claims of fruitless research. The point of this post is to suggest that the CIA *did* 'discover' something about 'mind control'; something social observers have been aware of since the time of Plato. Mind-control is not a mystery: it's an everyday occurance through social pressure, education and the arts. The most effective techniques are the most commonplace, which brings me to a paper by Susan M. Andersen and Philip G. Zimbardo titled *On Resisting Social Influence*.

> *The thesis of this essay is that "mind control" exists not in exotic gimmicks, but rather in the most mundane aspects of human experience. If this is true, it implies that people can learn to resist untoward influences, which are defined here as influences in which intentions are hidden and the subtle constraints of individual behavior are profound. When information is systematically hidden, withheld, or distorted, people may end up making biased decisions, even though they believe that they are freely "choosing" to act. These contexts may thus involve "mind control." Although resisting cleverly crafted social influences is not easy, it is argued here that it is possible to reduce susceptibility to unwanted interpersonal controls by increasing vigilance and by utilizing certain basic strategies of analysis.*

What if all those MK ULTRA files that Helms burned were about shuffling the boards of media companies; or working with the Department of Education; or buying recording studios; or employing advertizing consultants? **What if MK ULTRA was about the CIA turning itself into the best-organized political lobby ever?**

Zimbardo and Andersen's paper was first published in *Cultic Studies Journal*, 1984, Volume 1, Number 2. Philip Zimbardo himself was one of the National Academy of Science's personal sources for their biography of Carl Hovland (Zimbardo was a student of Hovland's before taking a professorship at Stanford in 1968); Zimbardo was also president of the American Psycological Association, an organization which gets a lot of (bad) play in the MK ULTRA saga. (The APA is currently involved in an ongoing CIA-torture scandal.)

On Resisting Social Influence is an abridged version of a report Zimbardo and Andersen did for the Office of Naval Research, a US military/private industry collaborative organization . (The Office of Naval Research funded Zimbardo's famous– and creepy– 'Prison Experiment' in 1971, shortly after he got his first professorship. It seems Zimbardo was well connected with the military from day one.)

I'm not saying Philip Zimbardo is *necessarily* a CIA asset himself, but he learned and worked in their milieu, so I think it would be prudent to carefully consider Zimbardo's observations on 'mind control':

> *Formidable quests to gain control over the human mind have often employed exotic technology. Exquisite torture devices, electroshock therapy, mind altering drugs, hypnosis, and sensory deprivation have all been used to get targeted persons to do the bidding of various agents and agencies of control. Indeed, these methods carry enough wallop to distort and sometimes destroy the mind's normal functioning. But they are not adequate for the task of reliably directing behavior through specific scenarios as designated by would-be manipulators.*
>
> *John Marks' expose of the CIA's secret mind control program (see* The Search for the "Manchurian Candidate"*) suggests that no foolproof way of "brainwashing" another person has ever been found. After a decade of intensive, costly research into the technology of such control, the CIA's MKULTRA program was deemed a failure. Covert operations could claim little more than being capable of turning unsuspecting victims into "vegetables."*

> *Effective mind control exists in most mundane aspects of human existence: the inner pressures to be bonded to other people, the power of group norms to influence behavior, the force of social rewards (such as smiles, praise, a gentle touch). We influence one another, intentionally or unintentionally, using the most basic principles of social psychology, motivation, and social learning. It is people in convincing social situations and not gadgets or gimmicks that control the minds of other people.* ***The more worried we are about being seen as ignorant, uncultured, untalented or boring, and the more ambiguous the events are that are to be evaluated, the more likely we are to take on the beliefs of those around us in order to avoid being rejected by them.***

What Zimbardo appears to be saying is that social pressures like 'political correctness' are a form of mind control. Could it be that the CIA found obscure strands of Mexican hallucenogenic mushrooms but missed age-old knowledge of crowd psychology? I think not.

I *do* think that Zimbardo is in an excellent position to give us some insight into what the destroyed MK ULTRA documents might have contained. In this post I'm going to summarize Zimbardo and Andresen's paper and offer some suggestions– not proof, but suggestions– on how these manipulative practices might be used now.

Zimbardo's paper discusses two "basic principles of social psychology":

1) "Basic Training in Compliance"

> *Etiquette and protocol are powerful inhibitors of unconventional action. When people around us behave alike and as they are expected to, it becomes difficult for us to evaluate their actions critically or to deviate from what is expected of us in the situation… It is the wiser course of action, we are taught, to go with (or around) power, not to challenge it.*
>
> *Those who occupy social roles that carry prestige and credibility in our eyes can work wonders. The most potent influences are eased around to us by our buddies or by reputable "experts," rather than by those whom we think of as "enemies." A neighbor tells us to stop by for a chat with some interesting people, our doctor prescribes a new antibiotic, a businessman offers us exciting financial prospects, brother says he's impressed with a new pastor. Such testimonials encourage us to take the first step along most of the paths we've chosen for ourselves, good and bad, because such influences are basic to being engaged in social life.*

To this day in every major American university with a Philosophy department you can find 'experts' touting 'critical theory', which is mostly just the revolutionary politics espoused by the CIA-affiliated Frankfurt School intellectuals. There's very little consistent philosophy in 'critical theory'– its confusion is even admitted by friendly biographer Martin Jay*— yet academics still take 'critical theory' seriously… I propose, readers, that academics adopt this view because 'everybody else' appears to.

For another example of Zimbardo's observations in practice, consider Charlotte Iserbyt's recollections about her time as a "change agent" for the U.S. Department of Education, where she was taught how to "con the community".

Adobe Flash Player or an HTML5 supported browser is required for video playback.

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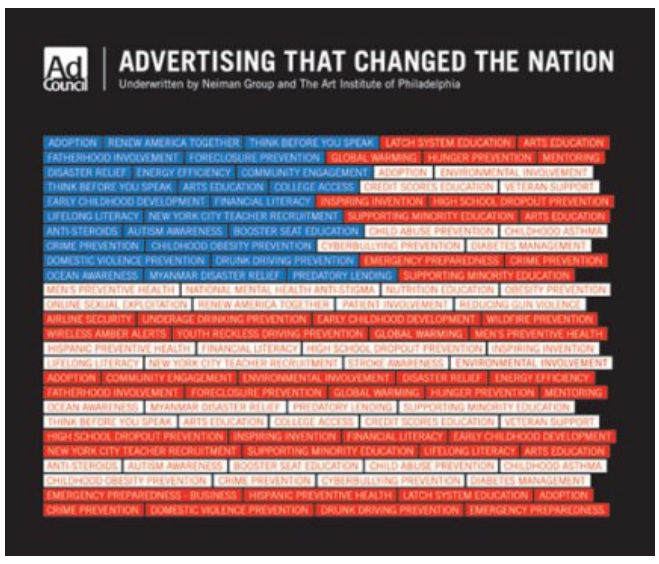
2) "Saturation and Detachment"

> *Unlike our response to "overtly" persuasive communicators who may beseech us to buy the latest gourmet cookware, to jog daily, to elect particular politicians, or to give to certain charities, situations with "normal appearances" (see Goffman,*Relations in Public*) don't seem to require skepticism, resistance, or even our conscious attention. We often move through them "on automatic" and are thus prone to being influenced without our slightest knowledge.*
>
> *Perhaps we don't want to be wholly critical and alert at all times, but mindlessness is often promoted as a way of encouraging passive acceptance at the expense of individual discretion. The hook is that when we are faced with complex problems we often yearn for simple answers and rules of thumb for how best to proceed. Immersing ourselves in the teachings of a powerful leader, in the say-so of the dominant partner in a relationship, or in the total ideology of any highly cohesive group can be comforting.*

What if Dick Helms was burning reems of paper on the CIA's work with the Ad Council, for example.



The ‘total ideology’ of the Ad Council makes a tattered flag.

Zimbardo’s and Andresen’s paper goes on to describe some of the ways Navy personnel (and the rest of us) can resist social influences. The antedotes may tell us something about the poison:

A) “Developing a Critical Eye”

> *To acquire the kind of sensitive skepticism needed to detect undesirable influences when they arise, people must learn to be vigilant to* discontinuities *between the ideals people espouse and their concrete actions…*
>
> *The biggest lies are often hidden by a compelling context and are discovered later on the basis of discontinuities that in hindsight are obvious.*

Discontinuities like “neoconservative” political sociologists who want to teach others about avoiding “racism, prejudice and political extremism”.

B) “Resisting Persuasion: Confidence, Clarity, and Persistence”

> *The best persuaders always appear to be just like us. They understand our problems, empathize with our predicament; in fact, they were there once themselves. They speak our language, share our needs, and know the inside jokes. When someone appears to share our concerns, he or she becomes a cohort, an ally, someone we can trust and give the benefit of the doubt. The tactic is powerful because attitude change, like all socialization, is most effective when it goes unnoticed.*

This persuasive tactic is, I believe, the one George Orwell picked up on in his essays on power worship and writing for children: the fairytale of the supreme leader involves a number of ‘good’ sidekicks, one of which any given child can identify with. In this way the author ‘speaks the language’ of the reader, who then becomes more receptive to indoctrination. Are you a Hermione Granger; or a Cho Chang; or one of the Weasleys; or perhaps a member of the “Order”?

See anyone here you can identify with?

Another manipulative technique is forceful communication:

> *Research shows that powerful people* ***express confidence and self-assurance*** *across all channels of communication – through body language, through words, and paralinguistically. Regardless of someone’s “real” credibility, what we end up responding to is how competent, confident, honest, and stable he or she appears to be.*

An example of this would be those intelligence professionals who shouted their confidence in Saddam Hussein’s “weapons of mass destruction”. *They’re the experts, right?*

Continuing in the WMD vein, confusion is a useful manipulative tool:

> *Mind control typically involves coming to accept a new reality… Elaborate but inadequate justifications for recommended actions can be very confusing. Once confused, we can easily be persuaded by false analogies, semantic distortion, and convenient rhetorical labels because we will tend not to question them and to think about them creatively, but to accept them at face value.*

The final prong to this psychological attack is closely paired with confusion: belittling the victim’s confidence in their own powers of judgement.

> *Susceptibility to control becomes greater with increased self-consciousness. When people are* ***induced to focus attention on themselves*** *by being made to feel awkward, deviant, or silly, and to worry excessively about what others think, they can be led to resolve opinion disparities with others in the favor of the other person’s opinion.*

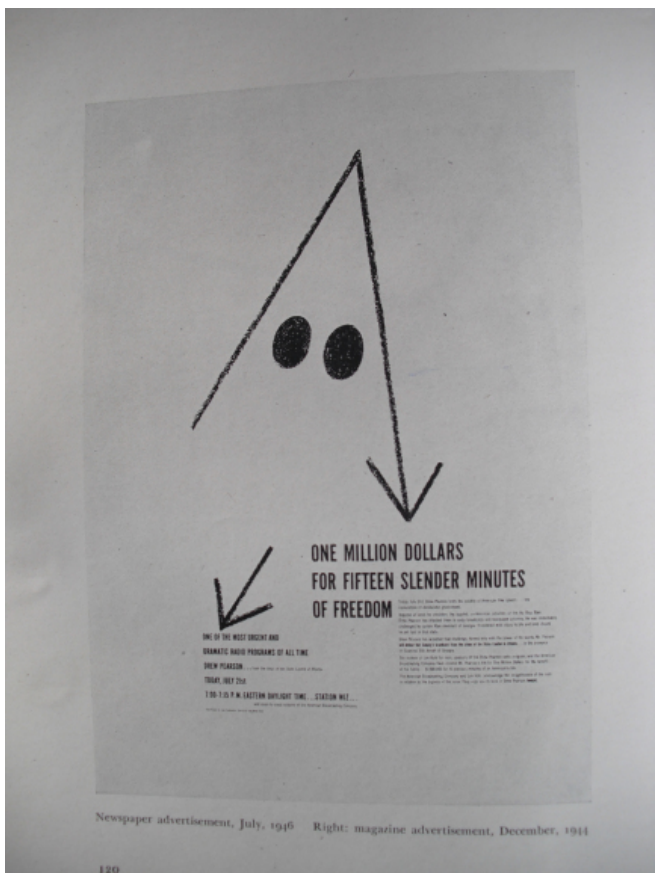
Consider the chilling effect of the following slurs: ‘racist’, ‘anti-Semitic’, ‘homophobic’, ‘authoritarian’, etc. These slurs are used to divert attention away from what’s being said by ‘shaming’ the speaker.

C) Resisting Manipulation by Fear

Manipulating fear is the demagogue’s favorite tactic, consider Sen. Mary Landrieu’s or Rep. Charlie Rangel’s latest spewings.

Zimbardo’s take:

> *By making us feel fearful or anxious, the manipulator is in a position to ease our discomfort by providing reasonable explanations and soothing solutions. Much advertising is based on this principle. So are many social interactions.*


ONE MILLION DOLLARS
FOR FIFTEEN SLENDER MINUTES
OF FREEDOM
Newspaper advertisement, July, 1946 Right: magazine advertisement, December, 1944

Famous graphic designer Paul Rand’s advertisement for talk show host Drew Pearson’s program “in the presence of” Georgia Governor Ellis Arnall, as broadcast by ABC. Pearson’s 1946 talk show attacked the Ku Klux Klan; just like Superman was doing at the same time. Rand, born Peretz Rosenbaum, was a favorite ad designer for IBM and the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, which organized Walt Disney’s South American tour during WWII.

D) Resisting Manipulation through Feelings of Guilt

> ***Gnawing feelings of guilt*** *can also provide a powerful impetus for personal change. Feelings of self-disgust, a desire to confess, to do penance, or perhaps even to experience suffering, are all potent persuaders in their own right. Simply being in the presence of those less fortunate can often be influential, particularly if we are somehow made to feel responsible for their plight. Professional beggars make it their business to make passersby feel guilty for being well dressed and well fed.*

Observers like Norman G. Finkelstein have noticed how Jewish suffering during WWII has been used to push for policies of dubious moral nature. The use of the Holocaust to further Zionist causes is interesting, considering how close Zionism was to the hearts of some intelligence operatives in the 1960s, and perhaps even as far back as the 1920s.

What the MK ULTRA documents do tell us is that the CIA was very interested in how Chinese Communists maintained their power by manipulating China’s national character. (This fascinating study is contained under subproject 108, MORI ID# 17364). The Chinese are famous for using public displays of guilt– ‘struggle sessions‘– for ‘re-education’. *Why was the CIA interested in control via manipulating a nation’s character?*

E) Identify False Choices

> *Once aware that their prey is bagged, they* ***emphasize the victim’s freedom of choice*** *– after tactfully constraining the alternatives…*
>
> *Skillful persuaders may also* ***deny us our freedom*** *in order to control our behavior with the help of the* ***reactance principle****. Studies have shown that when we perceive severe limitations on our behavioral freedom we sometimes move to reassert this freedom by advocating the opposite position, which may be exactly what the opposition wants.*

Finally, Zimbardo talks about “systems of control”, which touches

on the 'cult' psychology work that he's well known for. These observations will have particular meaning for readers who enjoyed my post Great Users of People, and I'll be writing more about intelligence "systems of control" in the future. In the meantime…

> *The behavior of large numbers of people must be managed efficiently. For this reason, persuaders develop "systems of control" that rely on basic rules and roles of socialization and that impart a sense of belonging. When interaction among people is restricted to interchange between their social roles, however, it becomes easier for ethical, moral, and human concerns to take a back seat.*

Perhaps those NSA employees who willingly participate in the dragnet spying against their fellow citizens are victims of such manipulation; perhaps these agents' ethical lapses have something to do the highly-persuasive, *cult-like*, environment they live and work in?

> *When a group of people becomes more preoccupied with seeking and maintaining unanimity of thought than with carefully weighing the pros and cons of alternative actions, raising moral issues, and critically appraising decisions, unanimous resolutions are often reached prematurely. As part of the package, members may be led to support these decisions for better or for worse. When tightly-knit groups are insulated from outside sources of information and expertise and their leaders endorse prospective policies before members have a chance to air their views, decision-making processes deteriorate.*

Decision-making processes at the NSA deteriorated to the point where dragnet spying programs were approved in the first place. As much as I dislike the 'intelligence community' in general, I do believe that it's leadership in previous generations was smarter *and a little more restrained* about 'pushing the envelope' with Checka-like surveillance programs.

Finally, I remind readers that the Checka had a habit of turning on their own:

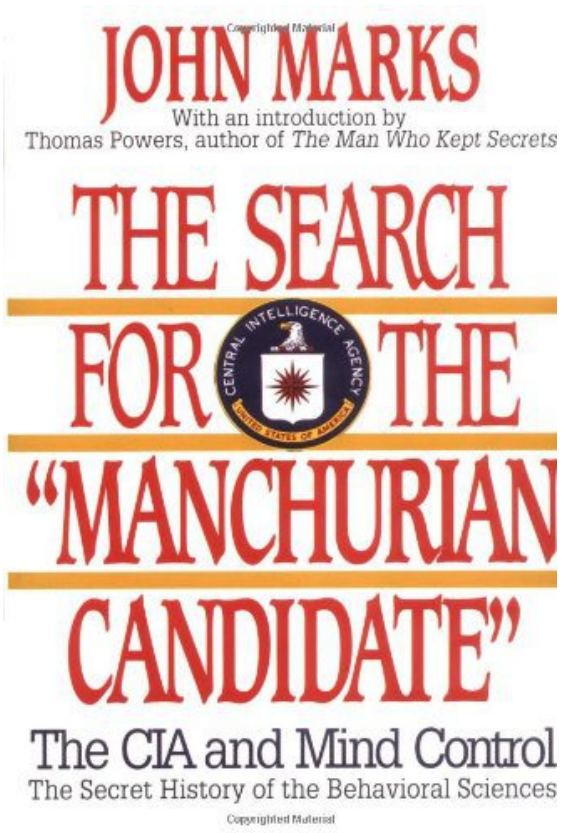
> *The tighter a system is, the more likely that minor challenges will be met with retaliation. In prisons, mental hospitals, religious or political cults, military establishments, concentration camps, and so on, some people have virtually total control over the existence of others, and minor deviations or threats to that power are intolerable.*

As I stated at the beginning of this post, I haven't given any hard proof of what the MK ULTRA files Helms burned contained. However, I think Zimbardo and Andersen's observations are better informed than most. I think that some of the discontinuties in American cultural and political life suggest that researchers at the CIA were not so out of touch as Bill Colby would have us believe.

* See chapter 2 "The Genesis of Critical Theory", page 82 of Martin Jay's *The Dialectical Imagination: A History of the Frankfurt School and the Institute of Social Research*, 1973.

6 COMMENTS

CIA: PROFILING VOTERS FOR YOUR SAFETY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JOHN MARKS
With an introduction by
Thomas Powers, author of The Man Who Kept Secrets
THE SEARCH FOR THE "MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE"
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
The CIA and Mind Control
The Secret History of the Behavioral Sciences
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TODAY: More on MK ULTRA subprojects that John Marks didn't want to talk about!

MK ULTRA Subproject 127 was never mentioned by John Marks in his book *The Search for the Manchurian Candidate: The CIA and Mind Control*, the book designed to present MK ULTRA material to the American public.

In subproject 127 CIA researchers analyzed fifty years of voting records for individuals in a low-literacy, USA-friendly, developing

democracy. They were trying to figure out what would make people vote different ways over time.

I'm *concerned* about Project 127 because I don't see any reason why the CIA should be worried about voter behavior in a **friendly nation**, especially when the goal of such a study is to distill *general information about voter behavior over long periods* which could be used to manipulate voters in the United States. Is the CIA in the business of manipulating allies' democratic governments in the long-term? Are they in the business of manipulating American voters?

Subproject 127 was designed "to study the open voting records of [REDACTED] registered voters over a fifty year period." [MORI #ID 17385, page 9] From the same document:

> *2. This study is an attempt to do a longitudinal study of the factors that affect the voting of people over a considerable period of time. The results of the study could contribute to [REDACTED]. In addition, the data represents a unique gold mine of information to study some of the fundamental behavioral characteristics of people.*

Subproject 127 analyzed voters based on "ecological patterning" (you'll remember that's CIA for 'race'), "social standing" and affiliation to established parties, which ran from "conservative" to "Communist". In order to vote in this friendly country, you had to be male, over thirty and own a house.

The study was focused on what it takes to get voters to change who they vote for; one advisor pushed for data on "individual turnover and population succession". This means looking at how aging, migration and "activation of non-voters" changes the political landscape. They also wanted to look at how hot-button issues and political personalities can shift the scene.

I probably don't have to tell readers this, but "population succession" issues have been at the heart of American politics for the last fifty years; these issues got going due to 1960s immigration reform.

Subproject 127 shows the CIA 'gearing-up' to meddle in another democracy. This meddling *might* bother me less if I didn't know that the agency was interested in manipulating politics back home in the USA, as evidenced by their interest in inner city youth and projects like MH CHAOS. I am *very suspicious* of an unaccountable, clandestine government agency which concerns itself with multi-generational voter behavior.

Some CIA people at the time of the study were nervous about Project 127 too. The MK ULTRA documentation contains a letter from Project 127's mysterious lead researcher to the CIA directors in charge of funding:

> *I may note that we have not asked any other foundation to support this project. So far our experience with [REDACTED] foundations has been that they react unfavorably to research in the field of political sociology. [MORI ID# 17385, page 11]*

While most of the CIA grant-givers showed "unqualified enthusiasm" about the operational possibilities of the "Voting" project, one correspondent was concerned that getting an American foundation to fund such a study would raise red flags inside the target nation:

> *My own reaction to the project is that it might possibly be considered a little inappropriate for an American foundation to participate in a study of voting in a friendly nation. If some of the results from the study turned out to be surprising and politically important, it is conceivable to me that a question might be raised concerning the support of the study by funds coming from outside the country.*

There was also *something* unsavory about the way Agency researchers got access to the voter data in question: *something happened* to make this data available, and correspondents made it clear that such an opportunity might not present itself again. The circumstances suggest that the data was obtained unethically.

As always, I don't expect readers to take my word about Project 127, and have provided photographs of the 20 documents in question here. The results of the study were not included in the MK ULTRA file, so we can't be sure that the CIA found anything useful– but we know that such uncertainty was important to Colby's damage control strategy. Neither can we be sure that the study was conducted *exactly* according to the design laid out here, however page 12 tells us that the CIA did shell out around $7,500.00 for the research in 1960, so we know it went ahead in some form. We also know that money was still being given to the project in 1962 [page 5].

Whatever the researchers found or didn't find, we can be sure the CIA was *very interested* in this type of voting data and we should to ask ourselves: "Why?"

Why does the CIA have to know what motivates voters' choices over 50 years? I think it's entirely reasonable that spooks 'war game' out different political situations overseas that might affect American interests, but we **don't need** the Agency to become a repository of 'tricks' to change voters' choices over time. *The CIA can't handle that type of power.*

Bearing the limitations of this clandestine organization in mind, projects with goals such as "contributing to the general field concerning voting behaviors" *really* scare me. Who was helping the CIA reach this goal?

All the names in Project 127 have been blacked out except that of MK ULTRA big-wig "Sid G.", who is 'Sidney Gottlieb'. Who might the CIA have gone to for 'the latest' in voter behavior research 1959/60? A book by Pippa Norris of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, *Electoral Engineering: Voting Rules and Political Behavior* states the following:

Part I: Theories of Social Cleavages and Voting Behavior
The seminal sociological studies of voting behavior developed during 1960s by Seymour Martin Lipset and Stein Rokkan emphasized that social identities formed the basic building blocks of party support in Western Europe.

Seymour Martin Lipset

My guess is that the CIA's man was **Seymour Martin Lipset**. My evidence follows:

1) **Seymour Martin Lipset** was an anti-Stalinist leftist, a political persuasion which was very popular with the CIA after WWII. (Interested? Read Francis Stonor Saunders' *Cultural Cold War.*)

Lipset was also a fervent supporter of the state of Israel, whose work "explored racism, prejudice and political extremism", and who was "one of the first intellectuals to be called a neoconservative". You can get a full list of his accolades from the Hoover Institution.

2) **Seymour Martin Lipset** enjoyed prestige across American academia, which is pretty typical for somebody who can make it rain Agency money:

> *He occupied prestigious academic positions at Columbia, Berkeley, Harvard, Stanford, George Mason, the Hoover Institution and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.*
>
> *He was the only person to be president of both the American Sociological Association and the American Political Science Association. (New York Times, Jan 4th 2007)*

3) **Seymour Martin Lipset** had the right research style to be the CIA's mystery researcher.

There is only one working reference which hasn't been blacked out in the MK ULTRA release [p.16]: "The Lazarsfeld-type of panel, based on interviews, is a much better tool.."

Later in his career, **Seymour Martin Lipset** would go on to become president of the Paul F. Lazarsfeld Society in Vienna. Lipset embraced the same methodological ideologies that are extolled in the CIA documentation.

4) **Seymour Martin Lipset** ran with the CIA crowd.

A) In the 1940s Paul F. Lazarsfeld (the same guy who formulated the paneling method used by Lipset's CIA 'Voting' project and whose Viennese admiration society eventually asked Lipset to be president) worked with Herbert Marcuse and Leo Lowenthal on "anti-Semitism in American Labor" for the Jewish Labor Committee.* Herbert Marcuse had been an OSS agent since 1942 and was a CIA agent at least until 1952. Paul Lazarsfeld, Lipset's icon, ran with a spooky set.

Paul Lazarsfeld

Leo Lowenthal, Lazarsfeld's co-worker, wrote a book with **Seymour Martin Lipset** one year after the CIA's "Voting" project began, which was titled *Culture and Social Character*. (See the bibliography below.) Lowenthal was a prominent member of the exiled Frankfurt School intellectuals along with CIA-agent Herbert Marcuse.

During WWII, Leo Lowenthal worked for the US Office of War Information (OWI), the same propagandists who employed Carl Hovland, who inspired MK ULTRA project 102, which focused on mapping the politics of inner-city youth (the 'riot' demographic). In fact, Paul Lazarsfeld and Carl Hovland are both considered fathers of communication research in the USA and their professional relationship was cemented through their mutual OWI work.

B) **Seymour Martin Lipset** got money from the same private political organizations as OSS/CIA-agent Marcuse, namely, the Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Committee. (See the bibliography below.) According to Thomas Wheatland's *The Frankfurt School in Exile*:

> *As Neumann recounted to Horkheimer:*
>
> *"I have just come back from a two hour conference that Graeber and I had with Dr. David Rosenblum, chairman of the public relations committee of the Anti-Defamation League and of the American Jewish Committee. The outcome is briefly this: It is likely that we shall get a grant of $10,000 for the execution of the Anti-Semitism project if this sum is matched by an equal sum supplied by the institute… I am confident that we have a very big chance of getting the $10,000 and though your presence here might not be indispensible I feel, that in this situation, every step should be done to ensure a happy conclusion of our endeavors."*

'Horkheimer' relates to the preeminent Frankfurt School member Max Horkheimer, 'Neumann' is Franz Neumann, another Frankfurt School-er to join the OSS. **Seymour Martin Lipset** himself would later become a consultant to the American Jewish Committee.

Seymour Martin Lipset has all the right friends to be a covert CIA asset. Here's a taster of some of the scholarship that resulted from Lipset's *probable* 1960 work with the CIA. I've highlighted Lipset's Anti-Defamation League work, Lipset's work with Lowenthal and works by Lipset which have a similar flavor to research done by Herbert Marcuse and his team, such as *Prophets of Deceit*.

> *Partial S. M. Lipset Bibliography:*
>
> ***LIPSET S. M., RAAB E.,* Prejudice and Society*, New York, Anti-Defamation League, 1959.***
> *LIPSET S. M.,* Political Man : The Social Bases of Politics*, New York, Doubleday, 1960.*
> *LIPSET S. M., GALENSON W.,* Labor and Trade Unionism*, New York, John Wiley and Sons, 1960.*
> *LIPSET S. M., SMELSER N.,* Sociology : The Progress of a Decade*, Englewood Cliffs, Prentice-Hall, 1961.*
> ***LIPSET S. M., LOWENTHAL L.,* Culture and Social Character*, New York, Free Press, 1961.***
> *LIPSET S. M., (Abridged modem edition of Harriet Martineau),* Society in America*, Garden City, Doubleday-Anchor, 1962.*
> *LIPSET S. M.,* The First New Nation : The United States in Historical and Comparative Perspective*, New York, Basic Books, 1963.*
> *LIPSET S. M., (Abridged modem edition of M. Ostrogorski),* Democracy and the Organization of Political Parties*, volumes I and II, Garden City, Doubleday-Anchor, 1964.*
> *LIPSET S. M., WOLIN S.,* The Berkeley Student Revolt*, Garden City, Doubleday-Anchor, 1965.*
> *LIPSET S. M.,* Estudiantes universitarios y politica en el tercer mundo*, Montevideo, Editorial Alfa, 1965.*
> *LIPSET S. M., BENDIX R.,* Class, Status and Power : Social Stratification in Comparative Perspective*, New York, Free Press, 1966.*
> *LIPSET S. M., SMELSER N.,* Social Structure, Mobility and Development*, Chicago, Aldine Publishers, 1966.*
> *LIPSET S. M., SOLARI A.,* Elites in Latin America*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1967.*
> *LIPSET S. M., ROKKAN S.,* Party Systems and Voter Alignments*, New York, Free Press, 1967.*
> *LIPSET S. M.,* Student Politics*, New York, Basic Books, 1967.*
> ***LIPSET S. M.,* Revolution and Counterrevolution*, New York, Basic Books, 1968.***
> *LIPSET S. M., HOFSTADTER R.,* Turner and the Sociology of the Fronder*, New York, Basic Books, 1968.*
> *LIPSET S. M., HOFSTADTER R.,* Sociology and History : Methods*, New York, Basic Books, 1968.*
> ***LIPSET S. M.,* The Left, the Jews and Israel*, New York, Anti-Defamation League, 1969.***
> *LIPSET S. M.,* Politics and the Social Sciences*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1969.*
> ***LIPSET S. M., ALTBACH P.,* Students in Revolt*, Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, 1969.***
> ***LIPSET S. M., RAAB E.,* The Politics of Unreason : Right-Wing Extremism in America 1790-1970*, New York, Harper and Row, 1970.***

What I've hope I've shown today is that John Marks, and ultimately Bill Colby, wanted to steer the American public away from a project that has much more importance than goofy psychic studies or LSD as a truth-serum. I have not answered the question: "Why did Colby want this information released, only to ignore it?"

I can, however, offer a speculative guess as to 'why'. Both subproject 127, and the 'riot demographic' subproject 102 which I wrote about last week, involve academic researchers who travelled in similar spheres– specifically, friends of Carl Hovland, Paul Lazarsfeld– and who shared similar political ideas. (Muzafer Sherif was just as 'anti-Nazi' as any of the Frankfurters.)

It *may be* that Colby and friends included these subprojects as 'sleepers' to use against CIA patrons of the aforementioned academics should they ever attack Colby *et alia* in the future– much like Colby outed MH CHAOS and HT LINGUAL to attack James Angleton. (See *Cold Warrior* by Tom Mangold.) Since these subprojects haven't been aired in over thirty years, my guess is that Colby and *that group* stayed cordial until the CIA director's untimely death.

Next week… *did the CIA really not find anything through MK Ultra research?*

*Paul Lazarsfeld was instrumental in resettling the Frankfurt School intellectuals in the United States. Lazarsfeld's 'Radio Research Project' at Princeton University and later Columbia employed Frankfurt academic Theodor Adorno.

3 COMMENTS

THE CIA AND RACE RIOTS

Muzafer Sherif

Today I'm going to pick up where John Marks left off in *The Search for the Manchurian Candidate: The CIA and Mind Control*. I'm going to talk about a subproject that John Marks didn't explore thoroughly and spread misleading information about. This subproject looks at "Human Ecology" which is the CIA's name for studying inter-group conflict or race relations.

In the late 1950s the CIA began to profile groups of 14-17 year old inner city and non-English speaking youths who were roaming the streets. They wanted to find out what these boys' political push buttons were and they engaged the help of a well-connected social psychologist to 'map' the boys' attitudes.

This profiling work was done under the auspices of MK ULTRA; it was given the financial designation of "Subproject 102″. The declassified MK ULTRA files give these documents reference number (MORI ID#) 17358, I've provided photographs of all subproject documentation on this page. (So you don't have to take my word for their existence!)

"Inner city youths of the age 14-17″ will strike anyone who's lived in a 'depressed' American urban neighborhood as a *very interesting* demographic to target, because this is the 'riot demographic'. If you're looking for a group of people who are easy to ignite, this is it. 14-17 year olds are the indiscriminate crime demographic: misguided kids who are bored, have bad attitudes and often embrace a culture of criminality. These are the kids who will go around trashing cars, breaking windows or attacking weak-looking people just because they can. They're the kids who'll suddenly decide to rush old folks, as we saw in Milwaukee last year– but this pattern is repeated all over the USA, all the time.

There is crime amongst other age groups too, but 20-somethings and older are less likely to engage in indiscriminate crime– they shoot other criminals over drug disputes and the like. (In fact, neighborhoods where drugs are sold are often safer because the dealers keep the hooligans in check in order to avoid police attention.)

For more examples of the "riot demographic" at work, consider the youths rioting in London; or the youths rioting in Paris; and the 1994 Los Angeles riots. The same pattern olds true for urban rioting during the 1960s.

The American race riots of the 1960s have a lot in common with riots that are happening across the Western world today– the sequence of events is strikingly similar: a cop shoots a youth under strained circumstances; rioting 'spontaneously' starts and destroys the local economy; the neighborhood ends up being on lock-down for the next ~~40,~~ ~~50~~, 60 years. It's a great way of spreading the police state and inciting distrust between races. This distrust is politically useful for demagogues and FBI informants like Rev. Al Sharpton.

Of course, I'm not saying all riots are caused by 14-17 year old 'inner city' males, nor am I saying that once a riot starts only 14-17 year olds maintain the riot– plenty of older people get in on the action. I'm saying that it's *relatively* easy to start these young lads rioting and the CIA was *all over them* in the early 1960s. (The CIA were also *all over* militarizing the police, which came out in Colby's Family Jewels leak.)

So what does John Marks have to say about Subproject 102? A lot of misinformation. I'll let Bill Colby's pet writer speak in his own words:

> *In other instances, the Society [Human Ecology Society, CIA front] put money into projects whose covert application was so unlikely that only an expert could see the possibilities. Nonetheless, in 1958 the Society gave $5,570 to social psychologists Muzafer and Carolyn Wood Sherif of the University of Oklahoma for work on the behavior of teen-age boys in gangs. The Sherifs, both ignorant of the CIA connection,* studied the group structures and attitudes in the gangs and tried to devise ways to channel antisocial behavior into more constructive paths. Their results were filtered through clandestine minds at the Agency.* ***"With gang warfare," says an MKULTRA source, "you tried to get some defectors-in-place who would like to modify some of the group behavior and cool it. Now, getting a juvenile delinquent defector was motivationally not all that much different from getting a Soviet one."***

> **[Footnote] According to Dr. Carolyn Sherif, who says she and her husband did not share the Cold War consensus and would never have knowingly taken CIA funds, Human Ecology executive director James Monroe lied directly about the source of the Society's money, claiming it came from rich New York doctors and Texas millionaires who gave it for tax purposes. Monroe used this standard cover story with other grantees.*
>
> — *From* The Search for the 'Manchurian Candidate: The CIA and Mind Control*, Chpt 9 'Human Ecology' page 159.*

Marks' explanation of Subproject 102 is *almost entirely* bunk, and I'll explain why.

To begin with, the part that isn't bunk: The MK ULTRA documents which were released to Marks **did not include the names of Muzafer and Carolyn Wood Sherif**. All names associated with subproject 102 were blacked out. However, this sentence was included in a letter from the agency scout/consultant who brought the Sherifs to the attention of MK ULTRA directors at the CIA:

> *In my opinion Dr [REDACTED]'s project is highly significant because of its concentration on group behavior in a natural setting with a very minimum of interference or artificiality. It may not be apparent from your correspondence with Dr [REDACTED] that his wife will be a very active participant also. Mrs [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in the near future. The two of them represent a most able team of field investigators.*
>
> *MK ULTRA MORI ID #17358 file 21.*

Either Marks worked out who this couple were from his knowledge of social psychology (!? Marks' previous career was in the US State Department) or his 'MKULTRA source' told him the names of the pair.

Very little in the MK ULTRA documentation supports Marks' source's assertion that the goal of the Sherifs' work was to help inner city youths "cool" it by identifying boys who might moderate group behavior (see emboldened text in the quote from *Manchurian Candidate*). At most, the Sherifs' summary suggests that 'channeling antisocial behavior' is one way the data they're collecting *might* be used. *Psst, Marks! Your insincerity is showing!* Marks describes MK ULTRA on page 20 of *Manchurian Candidate* as an "assault on the human mind"– is it likely that such an assault would include *honest* inner-city charity work, John?! Naturally, Marks' "MKULTRA source" didn't want to disclose their name.

The CIA recruited Sherif because of his research into group psychology; work which he conducted with WWII-era propagandist Carl Hovland. (The results of their collaborative work were finally published in 1961.) Prior to Hovland's collaboration with Sherif, Hovland's research involved analyzing how wartime audiences would respond to messages in propaganda movies such as *Why We Fight*. This is how one author on social-judgment-theory.wikispaces.com describes Hovland's contribution to the war effort: "Like many other early communications theorists, he worked with the U.S. War Department during World War II to study the effectiveness of persuasive films and audience resistance to those films."

Sherif's 1950s/60s work focused on group attitudes and how to change group attitudes. He and Hovland are considered fathers of social judgement theory, which offers a framework for tailoring messages to groups so that the messages will have maximum impact. In 1959 Sherif and his wife were mapping inner-city boys' prejudices and political attitudes so that CIA messages could achieve "maximum influence".

This is how the same CIA talent scout describes Muzafer Sherif's cunning:

> *Dr. [REDACTED] made an unusually good impression on community workers in [REDACTED][REDACTED], where he worked last year. More than any other investigator that I have seen in recent years, he was able to obtain the confidence of [REDACTED] minority groups in getting their full support of his research activities. He uses relatively naive but highly motivated observers who are given special training for this purpose. As a result his data are quite fresh and most revealing of things that are often hidden from the individual in more professional observer roles.*
>
> *MK ULTRA MORI ID #17358 file 21.*

I'll now provide a series of quotes from the Sherifs' research summary as it appears in the actual MK ULTRA documentation, you can judge for yourself what's going on:

> *Operation Report to the [REDACTED][REDACTED] [REDACTED]*
>
> *Description of Research Work on Natural Groups 1958-1959 [REDACTED][REDACTED]*
>
> *This report describes social-psychological research on natural groups in different socio-cultural settings in different [REDACTED] cities during the period of October 1958-August 15th 1959 while the writer was [REDACTED].*
>
> *…*
>
> *…three kinds of data were collected:*
>
> *(1) Data related to specific settings. (e.g. living conditions, family size and stability, income, education, mobility.)*
>
> *(2) Data related to group structure (organization) and to group products. (e.g. shared practices, values or norms, reactions to deviation), based on the actual behaviors of individual members during the course of their interaction.*

(3) Data related to self-attitudes, aspirations and goals of age-mates of group members living in areas representing the same and different settings.

The later aspect of the study was strategic in linking ecological data mentioned under (1) and group behavior mentioned under (2).

…

Natural groups formed in socio-cultural settings undergoing differing degrees of transition are most suitable for this purpose. This consideration determined that cities be chosen that were in the process of salient and accelerated transition and that areas within them be selected whose populations are themselves in varying stages of acculturation to dominant features of American life (e.g. [REDACTED] rapidly growing city.)

…

While the present project is mainly concerned with theoretical and methodological issues, namely integrating conceptual tools and methods of field and laboratory studies, it is assumed that substantial advances in these respects are bound to have implications for more realistic and effective handling of (a) problems of intergroup relations in actual settings and for (b) devising measures for channeling socially undesirable modes of behavior… into more constructive modes…

…

In all cases, data were collected by persons who were perceived by group members or respondents, as the case might be, as "one of us".

…

1. The area of study was specified to the observer. His initial task was to identify a group in that area composed of no less than 7 and no more than 12 male members within the age range of 14-17 years.

(a) Procedure for identification of groups: Observers did not identify groups by questioning of members or local adults. Groups were identified by direct observation "at a distance" through repeated inspection of possible gathering points in the area (e.g. playground, recreation center, vacant lot, drugstore). The initial criterion for selecting a group for observation was simply observed frequency and recurrence of association at specified locations in the area. At no time during this stage did the observer directly converse or question group members.

(B) Establishing contact and rapport with the group: Once a group was identified on the basis of observed frequency of association, the observer set about to establish contact and a plausible pretext for his presence in the area… For example, one observer observed a group of boys associating frequently to play basketball. After thus identifying a group for study, he appeared on the scene with a new basketball, which soon attracted their attention. His pretext for being on the scene was that he needed the exercise to lose some weight.

2. The first focus of observation being status structure of the group… Status Rankings: On the basis of repeated observations of the group the observer was able to specify at least the top three and bottom positions in the group… independent rankings of school authorities provided such a check.

3. The second focus of observation was group products such as common practices, values or norms and sanctions. The criteria for such products were observed recurrences over a period of time of common terms, common modes of apparel, common procedures in activities, and specific reactions to deviations, sanctions, from such customary behaviors on the part of a member.

One finding concerning reaction to deviation, to be expanded in the reporting of the study, is of particular interest. In the lower socio-economic area in [REDACTED] the group observed had considerably greater importance in the lives of its members than other aspects of the social organization in the area… Consequently, the group member suspected (as one was) of "squealing" on the group was in trouble. On the other hand, the norms of the group in the somewhat higher socio-economic area [REDACTED] were less comprehensive in the activities covered and observed reactions to deviation were of a milder nature.

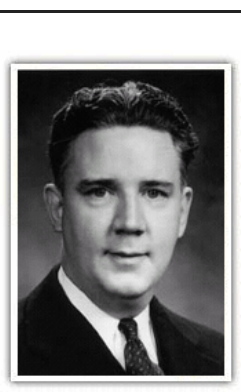
…

III. Questionnaire Data Self-Radius-Goals Schedule… A schedule was prepared for administration in high schools, designed to be easily read and completed. The items pertained to self-conceptions, aspirations and goals of adolescents. Topically the contents can be grouped according to the content of the socio-cultural data. Thus, there were items pertaining to residence and housing conditions, language use and cultural preferences, attitudes toward educational and occupational achievement, toward parents and authority figures, conceptions of financial achievement and deprivation, and finally friendship preferences as related to intergroup affinities and rejections…

> *For example, the median estimate of weekly income needed to be "really well off" varies from $82.60 in the low socio-economic level [REDACTED]-speaking area, to $332.14 in the upper level English-speaking area. Such data, representing relatively "free" estimates of respondents, are clearly significant psychologically…*

I encourage readers to read the full report for themselves, which is available here: Subproject 102 . Am I saying that every riot since 1959 has been a CIA plot? **No, I'm not.** I'm saying that in 1959 an agency which likes to implement regime change through civic revolt was very interested in a group of boys who happen to fit the typical riot demographic. A few years after this 1959 study, the USA experienced a rash of riots which followed similar patterns; we continue to experience these riots to this day. Globally since 1959 a number of regimes which the CIA didn't like have been toppled after sudden civilian rioting, mostly in urban centers. I'm saying that in 1959 the CIA had prepared itself– done its social psychological mapping– to be involved in some of these riots.

How did Muzafer Sherif get into bed with the CIA? Muzafer was born in 1906 to a wealthy family in Odemis, Izmir, Turkey. His given name was Muzafer Sherif Basoglu, but he changed it later to 'Muzafer Sherif' for reasons that are unclear to this writer. Muzafer studied at Harvard and Columbia University in the 1930s and was an outspoken critic of the Nazis, which lead to him being imprisoned for a short time in Turkey. The US State Department sprung him from jail in Turkey and then gave him a fellowship at Princeton University. In 1946 Muzafer became resident fellow in psychology at Yale University, home of Rockefeller-funded professor Carl Hovland.



Carl Hovland

Carl Hovland had been a psychology professor at Yale *before* taking a three-year leave of absence to work for the War Department during WWII. After the fighting was done, he returned to Yale where it's likely that Muzafer came under his patronage. Carl Hovland was often retained as a consultant to various government and corporate institutions who wanted to devise policies that involved group psychology and manipulation, according to the National Academy of Sciences:

> *Hovland also served as an insightful and trusted consultant to numerous governmental and educational agencies, industrial organizations, and philanthropic foundations.*

So, Mufazer was plugged into government work from the earliest days of his relationship with the State Department. This strongly suggests that his wife, Carolyn, is lying about their ignorance of the Human Ecology Society's CIA funding. She had doubts enough to ask James Monroe about the source of the Society's funding; but she and her husband didn't seek the advice of her husband's seasoned patron? If I was worried about who I might be working for, Carl Hovland would be the first person I'd bounce my concerns off of…

Perhaps this is just a coincidence, but when Colby *et alia* wanted to leak the Sherifs' work to the public in 1977, they went to another State Department boy– John Marks– to do the dirty job of 'spinning' Agency race-profiling. Is John Marks now living a life on the lam, having outed some of the CIA's most precious secrets? Is he running scared that some day a MONARCH baby will shoot him with a poisoned dart gun, or drive a stake through his heart? **No, he's not.** Marks spent his career running a comfortable think-tank out of Washington D.C. called 'Search for Common Ground'. (*No longer searching for* 'Manchurian candidates'!) Perhaps you'd like to donate some money to Marks' non-profit, or take advantage of one of their limited time offers?

John Marks handing out awards at his think-tank circa 2007.

I'm writing this as the latest reincarnation of the typical American inner-city riot hits critical point: Ferguson, Missouri rioters' *cause célèbre* was the death of Micheal Brown, an 18-year old with a criminal past who was shot during an altercation with a police officer. His parents are appearing before the United Nations– Earth's Alien Ambassadors— this week suggesting that their son's death should be on the UN Committee on Torture's agenda.

I don't think that the UN is going to do anything to slow the militarization of police in the United States, nor anywhere else. However, I **promise** this will happen: black neighborhoods in Ferguson, Missouri will be destroyed; the police force will become more 'diverse' and much better armed; nutballs like the ~~FBI's~~ 'New Black Panther Party' will infect local politics with their hate and prevent rational civic discourse, ensuring the need for even more draconian policing… citizens everywhere will lose.

I hope I've given readers of anolen.com a better perspective on how the USA, and the rest of Europe, lost our way. In the meantime, I'll leave you with one thought: gasoline needs a match to start it burning. Here's a picture of aggressive protestors outside an up-scale shopping mall near

Ferguson, Missouri called 'Frontenac'. This photo was taken on Oct 13th 2014. *What do you think is going on? 'Cause I think some of those protesters were probably protesting in the 1960s too.*

3 COMMENTS

DAVID OBST TALKS AGAIN

It's been a fun day at a.nolen HQ: I've just found a 1974 article in which David Obst brags about being a literary agent for John Marks, author of *The Search for the 'Manchurian Candidate': The CIA and Mind Control*. In Obst's own words:

> *On the front burner right now I've also got books by Sam Dash, the majority Watergate counsel; the two sons of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who are writing about their parents; and then, of course, there's the superb book on the CIA written by Victor Marchetti and John Marks,* The Cult of Intelligence*.*

This is huge, readers, because 'The Obst Connection' places John Marks' and his co-author Victor Marchetti's motivation in question. Marchetti, a one-time CIA employee, had worked his way up from the notorious Soviet Division to Dick Helms' special assistant, but had become 'disillusioned' and decided to write a 'defamatory' book about the agency, *The Rope Dancer*, which was published in 1971.

In the 1970s, Obst was the go-to literary agent for authors who'd been given 'leaked' information. In reality, many of these 'leaks' are better described as 'placements' of infomation by CIA big-wig William Colby. Obst had a special relationship with Colby– he would 'place' leaks from Colby at the appropriate media venue. These leaks were designed to distract from Colby's criminality at the expense of the CIA *in general* AND give ammunition to Obst's KGB patrons. You can read all about that in my posts Managed Opposition; Did William Colby Help the KGB?; and Why is Lloyd Shearer a Family Jewel?

In the meantime, I'll remind you what Seymour Hersh, another Obst client, said about his buddy David:

> *"Whether it be My Lai, Watergate, The Pentagon Papers, or any of the other tumultuous events of that era, Obst seems to be in the middle of it."*

In this post I'm going to explain why I suspect that John Marks and Victor Marchetti are 'managed opposition' to intelligence community excesses, just like Obst's other clients Prof. Alfred McCoy (*Politics of Heroin*) and Seymour Hersh. The 'red flags' are: 1) Obst doesn't talk about Victor Marchetti or John Marks in his 1998 autobiography; 2) Marks/Marchetti's book *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence* was **praised by Colby** in his 1978 autobiography; 3) the CIA's incredibly cooperative attitude towards Marks' MK ULTRA work; and 4) Marks' book on MK ULTRA obscured politically sensitive CIA operations *inside the United States* while showcasing relatively minor ones.

Obst and his Autobiography

David Obst is a man who likes to talk. The article which I quoted from above appeared in *The Spokesman-Review* as part of Pamela Swift's "Keeping up… With Youth" column. Below, you'll see the charming picture of David in his tennis whites which graced the center of Swift's gossip page. (You look a little preppy for the commune, David. Perhaps your youth *wasn't* "Too Good to be Forgotten"?)

DAVID OBST: WORDS AND MONEY

The Institute for Policy Studies groupie who likes words and money… but not in that order!

David Obst also likes 'the good life' and rubbing shoulders with the rich and famous. Despite this weakness, he never mentions John Marks nor Victor Marchetti in his autobiography, *Too Good to Be Forgotten: Changing America in the '60s and '70s*. Obst never mentions his famous client-duo *even though* he makes time for Leni Riefenstahl and Stan Lee. (Obst does say he lived with a 'John Marks' for a while, but this is a misspelling of 'John Marx'– a mistake Obst's editor missed 2:1!)

Why the silence, David? I know you were quiet about Derek and Lloyd Shearer because of Derek's unsavory KGB connections, but why the reticence about Marks and Marchetti? Clearly, you were happy to talk about your relationship to them in 1974, but by 1998 your attitude had changed dramatically…

I don't think that Obst's caginess comes from Mark's and Marchetti's Colby connection *specifically*— many of Obst's big-name clients have CIA/Colby connections and that doesn't stop Obst bragging about them. Obst knows something particularly unsavory about Marks and Marchetti that makes Obst worried about associating himself with them. (Perhaps Marchetti's later political work?) I haven't found the reason for David's silence, but I'm sure ~~I'll discover why in time~~ *somewhere* David's already told us why.

Glowing Reviews from Bill Colby

David Obst's reasons for silence aside, we know from his 1974 interview that he did represent Marks and Marchetti. So what were John Marks and well-connected CIA operator Victor Marchetti doing hanging around David Obst and the KGB-affiliated Shearer clan in 1974? **Nothing that didn't have the blessing of CIA director William Colby.**

How were Marchetti and Marks useful to Colby? Their book, *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence* (1974), deflected negative attention away from Colby at a pivotal time: the first months of Colby's tenure as Director of Central Intelligence (DCI). When *Cult of Intelligence* came out, Colby's one-time patron and former DCI Richard Helms had just finished burning evidence of his own wrongdoing related to MK ULTRA. The next man in line, James Schlesinger– the guy who'd made the 'Family Jewels' list of every CIA activity with "flap potential"– had only held the DCI position a year before *getting the hell out.* 'DCI' Colby probably felt like he'd been handed a hot potato, so he did what he'd always done: protected himself with a media offensive that blamed "the CIA in general" for unethical (and illegal) behavior.

This is how Wikipedia– a popular quick-refence– summarizes *The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence*:

> *Victor Marchetti used the expression "cult of intelligence" to denounce what he viewed as a counterproductive mindset and culture of secrecy, elitism, amorality and lawlessness within and surrounding the Central Intelligence Agency in the service of American imperialism.*

Colby liked Marks'/Marchetti's book so well that he aped its conclusions about the CIA in his 1978 autobiography *Honorable Men: My Life in the CIA*:

> *Considering the importance and all-consuming nature of the work I was doing at the Agency; considering the missionary zeal [Eleanor and ISIS! -a.nolen], sense of elitism and marvelous camaraderie among my colleagues there; considering above all that I was strictly forbidden to talk about what I was doing with anyone outside the Agency and thus couldn't share my concerns or just sit around shooting the breeze in shop talk with anyone in the outside world– considering all of this, one can see how easy it would have been for me to drop out of that world and immerse myself exclusively in the cloak-and-dagger life. And some of my colleagues at the Agency did just that. Socially as well as professionally they cliqued together, forming a sealed fraternity. They ate together at their own special favorite restaurants [this is a particular dig at Angleton- a.nolen]; they partied almost only among themselves; their families drifted to each other, so their defenses did not always have to be up. In this way they increasingly separated themselves from the ordinary world and developed a rather skewed view of the world. Their own dedicated double life became the proper norm, and they looked down on the life of the rest of the citizenry. And out of this grew what was later named– and condemned– as the "cult" of intelligence, an inbred, distorted, elitist view of intelligence that held it to be above the normal processes of society, with its own rationale and justification, beyond the restraints of the Constitution, which applied to everything and everyone else. As I saw this develop, I remembered a talk I had with Donovan several years before. I had asked him how you get young paratroopers to behave like choir boys on Saturday night after spending six days learning to be aggressive, devious*

> *and heroic. He answered that he didn't know, but nevertheless it just had to be done. It would be many years before I would have to develop a better answer than Donovan's.*
>
> *That I didn't fall into this "cultist" attitude– at least not to the degree I might have– I have to attribute solely to Barbara.*

Always on the outside, Bill, but you still managed to claw your way to the top! I think the quote above shows readers *very clearly* why Colby put Helms' old assistant Marchetti and Marks onto their first book project: C.Y.A. for Colby… *at the expense of the rest of the CIA*. By the way, Barbara is Colby's first wife, who he ditched after his career at the CIA ended and he didn't need her anymore…

The CIA Finds Dirt on Itself!

John Marks' book with Marchetti wasn't his only claim to fame. It's John Marks' post-1974 work, or rather his lawyers' work, that got the CIA to release the MKULTRA files a few years after the Rockefeller Commission delivered rudimentary evidence of the mind-control program in the wake of Colby's 'Family Jewels' leak. The story goes that Marks' lawyers worked for several months to get the CIA to release 50 documents under a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request; the fabled "seven boxes" of MKULTRA documentation would follow a few years later, when the CIA suddenly announced they'd found more evidence and decided to tell Marks about it!

Those seven boxes– almost 20,000 documents that each needed 'sanitization' and clearance for their release– were probably in preparation during that one year when George Herbert Walker Bush ruled Langley; the seven boxes were then released during the first months of DCI Stansfield Turner's tenure. Turner worked hard to stop criticism of the CIA's role in Vietnam and William Colby. (While Colby left the CIA in 1976, he was still a powerful figure in organized crime through the 1980s.)

Directors Colby/Bush/Turner all went out of their way to deliver 20,000 'incriminating' documents to one lone little man, John Marks, and however many lawyers Marks could afford at Fried, Frank, Shriver, Harris and Kampelman. *CIA cooperation like that *never* happens for independent researchers.*

If readers have ever filed a FOIA request with the CIA, you'll know what an arduous, and arbitrary, process it is. The CIA has special staff who deal with the public with regard to these requests: they have a list of files which are pre-approved for release and are (fairly) quickly mailed out on CDs to whoever asks for them. MKULTRA files are one of these 'quick release' files. *However*, if you request files on something that hasn't been pre-approved for public consumption, the CIA will find some excuse to refuse to release information. The agency prefers not to tell you directly that the info won't be released– that would be tantamount to admission that the CIA had a working relationship with an organization/the person in question. Instead, they'll make impossible demands. Once, when I made an FOIA request about an academic who was *probably* a CIA asset in the 1950s, I was telephoned by the agency and told that they knew whose file I was requesting and that they'd process my request if I could find this academic's social security number. This academic had been an American citizen for a few years during the 1950s.

"Where would you go to find a Social Security number under these circumstances?" I asked the (very polite) representative.

"It's probably somewhere in the National Archives," was his answer!

(That's a joke in research circles, because the US National Archives is such a mess. The last time I visited there were notices in my particular reading room asking the public to look out for several boxes of classified documents that went missing somewhere on campus…)

My point is, readers, that Colby wanted to release 50 MKULTRA documents to Marks shortly after the 1974 scandals and DCIs Bush and Turner were happy to continue to use Colby's tactics through 1977.

Marks' 1980 book *The Search for the Manchurian Candidate* mentions William Colby three times: once in reference to the ex-Director's bringing a *neat-o* dart gun to his congressional testimony; once in reference to a saccharine quote Colby made about the touchy-feely business of graduating working relations between handlers and spook-assets; and finally when Marks states that *Colby said* the Cuban economic sabotage programs ended around the time Colby's own CIA directorship started. *Ya don't say, Bill.*

****It's incredible that John Marks doesn't have more to say about the CIA's number one narcotics dealer in a book about drugs and mind control.****

On the other hand, Marks wastes no time saying bad things about Colby's former patron who'd destroyed any MK ULTRA evidence against himself, Richard Helms:

> *He [Richard Helms] would become the most important sponsor of mind-control research within the CIA, nurturing and promoting it throughout his steady climb to the top position in the Agency. [p.13]*
>
> *Gottlieb would preside over arcane fields from handwriting analysis to stress creation, and he would rise through the Agency along with his bureaucratic patron, Richard Helms. [p.17]*
>
> *Richard Helms, Sid Gottlieb, John Gittinger, George White and many others would undertake a far-flung and complicated assault on the human mind. [p. 20]*

(To be fair, the MKULTRA program ran from the early 1950s-1973, under the directorship of: Allen W. Dulles (Marks mentions him 15 times in Manchurian Candidate), John A. McCone (mentioned 5 times), William F. Raborn (never mentioned), and Richard M. Helms (mentioned 17 times).

Marks claims most projects had ended by 1963, three years before Helms became DCI.)

You don't have to get far into *Search for the Manchurian Candidate* to know who Marks wants to paint as the bad guys.

If the first 50 MKULTRA files were released because Colby wanted them to be released, why did Colby want them released? Probably because Colby, like Helms before him, knew *something* was going to come out and reasoned it would be better to control what came out rather than leave that to somebody else. What's the safest way to spin MKULTRA? "*Yeah, we did it. But we didn't find anything."*

I think John Marks says it best:

> *The Kennedy [Senator Edward Kennedy, Subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research, 1975] hearings added little to the general state of knowledge on the CIA's behavior-control programs. CIA officials, both past and present, took the position that basically nothing of substance was learned during the 25-odd years of research, the bulk of which had ended in 1963, and they were not challenged. That proposition is, on its face, ridiculous, but neither Senator Kennedy nor any other investigator has yet to put any real pressure on the Agency to reveal the content of the research– what was actually learned– as opposed to the experimental means of carrying it out. In this book, I have tried to get at some of the substantive questions, but I have had access to neither the scientific records, which Gottlieb [Sidney Gottlieb] and Helms [Richard Helms] destroyed, nor the principal people involved.*

Marks is being somewhat honest here: a careful reading of *Search for the Manchurian Candidate* shows that Marks holds the same opinion as the CIA– nothing of substance was discovered. In fact, Marks indirectly flatters the agency quite often. A reader could easily come away from *Manchurian Candidate* with the impression that the CIA is filled with brilliant, if sometimes misguided, patriots who have to make tough choices. I encourage readers to look to the end of chapters 10 "The Gittinger Assessment System"; 9 "Human Ecology"; 7 "Mushrooms to Counterculture"; 6 "Them Unwitting: The Safehouses"; and chapter 4 "LSD" for evidence of this flattery.

Historians interested in James Angleton's career should know that at the end of chapter 11 "Hypnosis", Marks goes out of his way to smear Angleton, with speculative allegations against the Counterintelligence division's use of hypnosis, should hypnosis have been proved effective. *It's almost like Colby wrote that chapter himself…*

Marks did such a good job planting the meme 'nothing was discovered', that you can find it popping up everywhere MK ULTRA is discussed. For example, I just found this quote from one-time American Psychiatric Association president Philip G. Zimbardo's and Susan M. Andersen's paper 'Resisting Social Influence', which was published in the *Cultic Studies Journal*, 1984, Volume 1, Number 2, pages 196-219:

> *John Marks' expose of the CIA's secret mind control program (see* The Search for the "Manchurian Candidate*) suggests that no foolproof way of "brainwashing" another person has ever been found. After a decade of intensive, costly research into the technology of such control, the CIA's MKULTRA program was deemed a failure. Covert operations could claim little more than being capable of turning unsuspecting victims into "vegetables."*

'Resisting Social Influence' is a fascinating read and I will talk about it more in later posts. Clearly, Dr. Zimbardo and Dr. Andersen have read Marks' book on MK ULTRA; but they *haven't* read the MK ULTRA files. Marks did a *great job* of discouraging people from *actually reading* the MK ULTRA material.

Tweaking American "Human Ecology"

Discouraging people from actually reading these files is important, because the MK ULTRA documents do contain some pretty explosive stuff– *the stuff John Marks is careful not to talk about.*

What does the MK ULTRA material really contain? A long time ago I put in an FOIA request for the MK ULTRA cd and was sent a copy by the CIA's Information and Privacy Coordinator. There are nearly 20,000 documents on a collection of three discs. I'm going to give you a rough run-down of what's discussed. A great number of those documents are so heavily redacted that it's difficult to give them context or even understand what's being said.

— 54% of the documents relate to 'ARTICHOKE' and 'BLUEBIRD' material: the use of hypnosis, drugs, alcohol, interrogation techniques, psychiatric methods to get people to 'confess'; or 'brainwash' people; or to make soldiers more effective in battle. There are disconnected tidbits about various investigations into said activities, including domestic investigations in places like Minneapolis MN and Detroit MI; scraps of evidence garnered from Soviet science and unidentified drugs in syringes/vials that had fallen into CIA hands. Also, correspondence with unnamed medical doctors and other civilian researches about the possibility of using the techniques listed above; selected instances of monies paid to these doctors/researchers but not exhaustive accounting records. There are also data on how ARTICHOKE and BLUEBIRD agents would be indoctrinated while working on the projects. (Of this 54%, only 4% of documents relate to the use of LSD and Swiss pharmacutical company Sandoz!)

— 8 % are summaries of subprojects to MKUltra. Some of these are quite interesting, especially the "**human ecology**" projects. Marks ignores or downplays the more interesting of these projects, which involved research into how different groups of people in the United States can be manipulated politically– like inner-city minorities and non-English speakers.

–4 % of documents relate to Frank Olson's death after the CIA *allegedly* tested out mind-altering drugs on him.

–8 % of documents relate to drug addiction and useful aspects to the CIA, including the use of Codine. (This is very vague information, most of it is correspondence back and forth trying to set up an interviews with Dr. Harris Isbell at the NIMH.)

–13 % of the documents relate to behavior research in humans and animals; how drugs may affect behavior; ability of animals to manipulate electricity; Pavlovian conditioning; communication techniques of animals.

–8 % cover the use of electricity to interfere with sleep, anesthesia, 'electronarcotics' research, dream research, living tissue response to electricity, heart function, psychological responses to electrodermal response, electrochemical responses in living tissue, nervous system research, electric photography, research into how people respond to sound and language (including often-repeated words), light and eye research (for incapacitating), stress electroencephalographic results and biological power sources.

— 5% are "SI and H" experiments, which are also interesting and mostly unmentioned by Marks. These experiments were not conducted on a large scale: they looked at how well agents could lie or remember details of a specific situation under different conditions, for example.

I'm going to wrap this up by pointing out that there are *very concerning* projects documented in the MK ULTRA releases, particularly relating to "human ecology" inside the United States. Marks doesn't talk about these projects, but they could throw light upon what's happened in Ferguson, Missouri, so I'm going to talk about them in upcoming posts. **I don't understand why details of these "human ecology" projects were released.**

It may be that CIA officials thought that these subprojects wouldn't mean much to a 1970s audience, that they would just 'pad out' the release and make it look more comprehensive, but I find that hard to believe given the race riots of the 1960s.

There are other projects too, such as the CIA 'data mining' election results with respect to "human ecology" in order to try to understand how to get people to vote a certain way. Frankly, as an American citizen, I find these types of projects a lot more dangerous than tests of LSD's use as a truth syrum. Why would Colby/Bush/Turner release this information when they had Marks focus on the other stuff, anyway? I don't have an answer… yet.

In the meantime, we can throw John Marks and Victor Marchetti onto the ever-growing pile of 'whistle blowers' who are really just tools which members of the 'intelligence community' use to manipulate the public.

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CONTACT

aDOTnolen[literally](at) gmx (dot) com

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